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A Shiite militia fighter holds an Iraqi flag with the image of Imam Hussein, the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad, outside Kirkuk, Iraq, on Sunday.

EMAD MATVI/AP

IN DEFENSE OF KIRKUK

Shiite militias rush to guard Iraq's oil-rich city from Islamic State » Page 3

Ashton Carter sworn in as new secretary of defense

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Ashton Carter was sworn in Tuesday as President Barack Obama's fourth defense secretary, assuming the post at a time when the administration's policy against Islamic extremists is being widely criticized and military brass are raising the alarm over the effects

of budget cuts on America's ability to cope with national security threats.

Vice President Joe Biden, who administered the oath of office at the White House, praised Carter as "a thinker and a doer" with a history of looking out for the troops and their families.

Carter previously served as deputy secretary of defense and the undersecretary of defense for ac-

quisition, technology and logistics. Biden noted Carter's key role in getting thousands of Mine Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicles into the field to protect American service-members in Iraq and Afghanistan from improvised explosive devices, which were responsible for the majority of U.S. casualties.

"He worked like the devil to get our troops [MRAPs]. And they've

saved lives and limbs in countless numbers," Biden said.

Biden also noted Carter's low-profile visits to meet with wounded troops and their families. "Almost every Saturday, when no one was looking, Ash and [his wife] Stephanie were out at Walter Reed [with] no cameras, no publicity.... They just became regulars," Biden said.

SEE CARTER ON PAGE 4



Carter

FACES

Jazz siren Diana Krall goes pop on new 'Wallflower' album

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NATION

Mardi Gras gets going with day of parades, partying

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BASKETBALL

Who's No. 2 in college rankings? Take your pick

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Nation: Snow and ice hit South, Mid-Atlantic in latest winter storm » Page 6

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The bottom line is we feel like we're getting a dangerous child shoved down the throats of all the people here in the school."

— Bart Baumeister, a plaintiff in a lawsuit filed by parents in rural Montana to prevent a 16-year-old boy with a troubled past from attending their children's school

See story on Page 10

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COMING SOON

Music

"Wanted":
George Ezra



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EUROPE



Left: A boy gets his bag ready to receive candy during the Ramstein-Miesenbach Fasching parade on Tuesday. The annual event draws scores of Germans and Americans, as parade participants and bystanders.

Below right: A clown gets into the crazy spirit at the parade. Cities throughout Germany celebrate carnival this time of year, a reason to dress up, hold parades and throw parties.

Below left: Members of the U.S. Air Forces in Europe band delight the crowd with their music and dancing during the parade.

PHOTOS BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

A candy crush at Fasching parade

Stars and Stripes

RAMSTEIN-MIESENBACK, Germany — Thousands of Germans and Americans turned out for the Ramstein-Miesenbach Fasching parade Tuesday to celebrate Germany's zany Carnival season.

The 64th annual parade, sponsored by the Bruchkatze Carnival Association, is the biggest in the Westpfalz area, with more than 1,400 participants walking or driving in the parade, according to organizers.

The parade wound through Ramstein-Miesenbach for more than two hours and featured colorful floats, wacky costumes and plenty of candy throwing.

Several groups from Ramstein Air Base participated, including members of the U.S. Air Forces in Europe marching band.



Pararescue airmen to get their own unit at Lakenheath

By ADAM L. MATHIS
Stars and Stripes

RAF MILDENHALL, England — Pararescue airmen will get their own unit, the 57th Rescue Squadron, at a unit activation ceremony Wednesday at RAF Lakenheath.

The move is structural and will not involve any change in the number of personnel or aircraft stationed at Lakenheath, the Air Force

said.

The new squadron will take the pararescue men from the existing 56th Rescue Squadron. The HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter pilots and maintainers will remain with the 56th.

"The change ... aligns the personnel recovery function within U.S. Air Forces in Europe to the standard Air Force structure," officials said in a news release.

After operating for almost 20 years out of

Ireland, the 56th started moving to Lakenheath in 2006. The unit's personnel have since provided support to U.S. servicemembers in Afghanistan and have helped rescue sailors near the United Kingdom.

In 2014, four airmen with the unit were killed when their helicopter struck a flock of geese near the Norfolk coastline.

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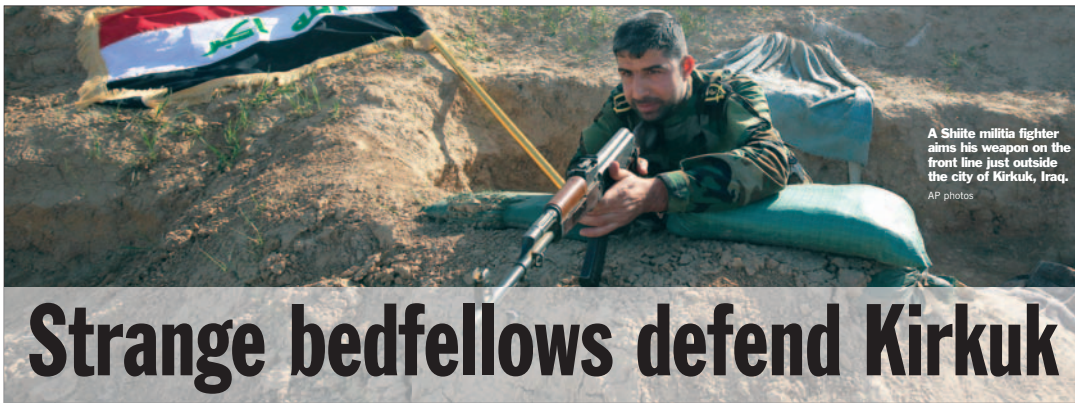
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WAR ON TERRORISM



A Shiite militia fighter aims his weapon on the front line just outside the city of Kirkuk, Iraq.
AP photos

Strange bedfellows defend Kirkuk

Shiites, Kurds in marriage of convenience to protect oil-rich Iraqi city from militants

By VIVIAN SALAMA
AND BRAM JANSSEN
The Associated Press

Shiite prayers billow from a mosque loudspeaker at a sprawling Iraqi military base on the fringes of the northern oil-rich city of Kirkuk as Shiite militiamen, most of them in mismatched military fatigues, shuttle back and forth to nearby front lines, eager for a taste of victory against the Islamic State group.

When the Islamic State militants blitzed across northern and western Iraq last year, tens of thousands of Shiite men answered a call to arms by the country's top Shiite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, to defend the nation against the Sunni extremists.

Now the Shiite militiamen have arrived in Kirkuk, long one of Iraq's most hotly disputed territories, and have made a string of bases just 6 miles from the city their home. A marriage of convenience has since emerged with Iraq's strained Kurdish forces, which had been exclusively in charge of the city since last year when they repelled Islamic State advances.

As they face a common enemy, the unexpected and often uncomfortable alliance between the Kurdish and Shiite rivals is on display. The friction is feeding the combustible inter-ethnic competition over who will ultimately get control of the city.

The Shiite fighters, officially known as the Popular Mobilization Forces, were instrumental in helping the Iraqi military — which dissolved in the face of the militants' initial onslaught in northern Iraq — stall the Islamic State push outside

Baghdad. They have also teamed up with Kurdish peshmarga fighters in a number of battles, breaking the siege of the northern Shiite-majority town of Amiri in August and, more recently, driving Islamic State militants out of a string of towns in Diyala province, northeast of the Iraqi capital.

Competing claims

Their arrival in Kirkuk, 180 miles north of Baghdad, has provoked deep-rooted sensitivities. Kurdish forces claimed control of Kirkuk just days after the Islamic State group swept across northern Iraq, seizing major cities including Mosul and Tikrit. Kirkuk, located along the fluid line that separates Kurdish northern Iraq from the rest of the country, is home to Arabs, Kurds and Turkmen, and all have competing claims to the area. The Kurds have long wanted to incorporate the city into their semi-autonomous region, but Arabs and Turkmen oppose that.

The Kurdish troops held their ground, but the Islamic State attempted a comeback. With what the Kurds say was assistance from a Sunni sleeper cell in the city, Islamic State extremists stormed an abandoned Kirkuk hotel last month, then staged a surprise attack on a Kurdish peshmarga outpost, killing a top commander and several of his troops.

The apparently coordinated attack was a blow to the Kurds and underscored their tenuous hold on the city, while the semi-autonomous Kurdish government appealed for more weapons and training from the U.S.-led coalition forces.

Since then, thousands of fighters from

a handful of militias such as the powerful Iran-backed Badr Brigades have flooded into Kirkuk and the surrounding Tamim province.

Kirkuk Gov. Najmaldin Karim welcomed the Shiite forces, but Massoud Barzani, the president of the Kurdish regional government, insisted that the Shiite militiamen would be "prohibited under any circumstances" from entering the city.

"We are already in Kirkuk," Mullah Mohammed Youssefi, a Badr Brigades spokesman, said, roaring with laughter as he sat behind his desk in a trailer at the Taza Battalion base during a recent visit by The Associated Press. "We have to fight. Our religion legitimizes it."

The Badr Brigades commander, Hadi al-Amiri, came to Kirkuk last week to deliver truckloads of weapons to Shiite fighters and vowed during a meeting with senior Kurdish officials to send thousands more from his militia to reinforce the area — much to the Kurds' consternation. At least 2,000 fighters have arrived at the Taza base alone since al-Amiri's visit. Several militia commanders in Kirkuk estimate that as many as 5,000 Shiite fighters arrived in the region this month alone.

Answering al-Sistani's call

"I'm here because ... al-Sistani called on us to protect our country," said Shiite fighter Amir al-Qassim, 24, who came to Kirkuk from his native Baghdad in January.

A former minister in the Kurdish regional government, Jafar Moustafa, insisted that the reports of Shiite militia presence in Kirkuk are "far from reality," and that the governorate is firmly in the hands of the

Kurdish peshmarga forces.

But only a few miles away from where Moustafa spoke to the AP, religious Shiite flags mark the battlefield while billboards with al-Amiri's picture and that of radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr are hoisted alongside Shiite outposts just south of the city.

"Run, Daesh, run, by the orders of al-Sistani," chanted a group of Shiite fighters after a recent clash, firing their Kalashnikov rifles into the air in celebration. Daesh is an Arabic acronym for the Islamic State group.

Less than 50 yards away, Kurdish fighters stood guard along the same front line. They did not engage with the Shiite militiamen and refused to be interviewed.

Sunnis living in Kirkuk also have much at stake, and many are viewed with suspicion, deemed guilty by association — simply for being Sunni like the Islamic State militants. The Shiite militias have repeatedly been accused of severe brutality against Sunni communities as they push back the Islamic State group.

A report released Sunday by Human Rights Watch accuses the Shiite fighters of forcing Sunni residents from their homes, kidnappings and, in some cases, executions.

Such sectarian fears hang over the streets of Kirkuk, and at the outdoor bazaar in the heart of the city many echoed concerns over the Shiite militia's brutal record. "They act like gangsters, and we are afraid of that," said Yassin Ahmed, 24, a Sunni resident of Kirkuk. "But the most important thing is that they have to take care of the people and provide us with security."



Left: A woman walks in the market in Kirkuk on Sunday. Right: A Shiite militia fighter carries a knife on his back secured by a headband that reads, "God is great."

MILITARY

Carter: New defense secretary lays out priorities for his tenure

FROM FRONT PAGE

In a message sent out to all Defense Department personnel, Carter laid out three priorities for his tenure:

■ **Helping the president make the best possible national security decisions for protecting the nation:** "I have pledged to provide the president my most candid strategic advice. ... I will also ensure the president receives candid professional military advice."

■ **Ensuring the strength and health of the force:** "I will do that by focusing on the well-being, safety, and dignity of each one of you and your families. ... And I pledge to make decisions about sending you into harm's way with the greatest reflection and utmost care — because this is my highest responsibility as secretary of defense."

■ **Making wise budget decisions:** "We must steer through the turmoil of sequestration, which imposes wasteful uncertainty and risk to our nation's defense. We must balance all parts of our defense budget so that we can attract the best people — people like you, so that there are enough of you to defend our interests around the world; and so that you are always well-equipped and well-trained to execute your critical mission."

But analysts are skeptical that Carter will be able to have much of an impact on foreign policy or the long-term future of the Pentagon.

Obama's other secretaries of defense have complained about White House micromanagement of military policy.

"I don't see how Ash Carter can fix what Chuck Hagel, Leon Panetta and Bob Gates couldn't," said Thomas Donnelly, a defense analyst at the conservative American Enterprise Institute.

On the war front, Obama's policy toward the Islamic State group has been widely criticized as muddled and overly cautious. Obama has ruled out using American ground troops to fight



Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Ashton Carter arrives at the Pentagon to assume duties as the newly appointed secretary of defense on Tuesday.

the militants. Efforts to train and equip Iraqi forces and moderate Syrian rebels to fight the Islamic State group are moving slowly. And the administration has refrained from taking any action against President Bashar Assad's regime in Syria, which has been attacking the rebels that the U.S. is trying to help.

"The level of effort we're putting out is minimal, to put it mildly," Donnelly said. "We're measuring out airstrikes in eye drop measures. The president is unwilling to commit any boots on the ground to include spotters and targeters and stuff like that. I mean, I don't see how we'll be able to retake [the Iraqi city of] Mosul, for example, without the kind of forward air controllers that would be effective. ... I also don't think that Secretary Carter will be able to do much to influence the president."

When it comes to getting the amount of money that Pentagon leaders believe they need to execute their missions and make needed investments for the future, analysts are skeptical that Carter will be able to deliver.

The Pentagon is asking for \$534 billion for fiscal 2016, but unless Congress changes the law, massive budget cuts known as sequestration will cap base defense spending at \$499 billion. Beyond fiscal 2016, tens of billions of dollars will also be taken out of the Pentagon's coffers each year through 2021.

Obama has proposed raising some taxes and removing the caps on both defense and non-defense spending, but the GOP appears unwilling to accept major

spending increases for domestic programs.

"I am somewhat pessimistic" that there will be a budget deal that eliminates sequestration," Ryan Crotty, a defense budget expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, told reporters during a media roundtable last month. House Republicans are "going to want to find money for defense in non-defense. And that is so clearly anathema to the president and what he sees as his priorities."

Another obstacle for Carter is that he won't have much time in the job to make lasting changes. At the swearing-in ceremony, Carter himself acknowledged that he is stepping into the position during the "fourth quarter" of Obama's presidency.

Analysts noted that the Pentagon's fiscal 2016 budget request was already submitted before Carter took office.

"His first budget is really going to be the [fiscal] '17 budget. [And] we don't know who the hell is going to be president then," said Lawrence Korb, a defense analyst at the Center for American Progress.

Experts say Carter has been dealt a bad hand.

"He doesn't have enough money to fund his programs or his department, and we're losing all the wars that were in. ... It's really a lousy situation to be in," Donnelly said. "Under these circumstances, the best he can do is keep things from getting worse than they would be otherwise."

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GOP in bind over push to boost defense spending

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Newly empowered congressional Republicans are in a bind over efforts to boost military spending in a time of terrorism threats and Islamic State militants.

Defense hawks want to restore previous spending cuts to steer more money to the military, but Republicans are divided over how to do it without piling billions onto the deficit.

Many deficit hawks insist that any increases for the military should be financed by offsetting cuts to domestic programs even as Republican pragmatists warn that could cause a budget logjam that would drag on for months.

The problem stems from the hard-fought budget and debt bill of August 2011 that imposed automatic spending cuts on the operating budgets of virtually every federal agency after the negotiators on the so-called supercommittee failed to reach a broader deal.

And that's before GOP leaders began talks with President Barack Obama, who's demanding increases for domestic agencies, too.

At issue is the budget for the upcoming fiscal year beginning Oct. 1. While programs such as Social Security, Medicare and food stamps run on autopilot, agency budgets are passed by Congress each year and require Obama's signature.

The problem stems from the hard-fought budget and debt bill of August 2011. A so-called supercommittee failed to reach a broad budget deal, resulting in spending cuts on the day-to-day operating budgets of virtually every federal agency. Two years later, the pain hit with across-the-board spending cuts.

The result was a blow to the Pentagon, with the department's core spending on ships, planes,

personnel and warfighting equipment reduced. Instead of a core budget of \$577 billion, defense spending would be limited to \$523 billion, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

"We really cannot put a 2016 spending plan together at the \$523 billion level," said senior House Armed Service Committee member Michael Conaway, R-Texas. "That's just unacceptable. We have to fix it somehow."

While many Republican conservatives want to reduce the budget for domestic agencies to free up funds for the military, party pragmatists warn that this approach failed badly when House Republicans tried it two years ago.

Others are eyeing cuts to other programs to provide relief similar to the bipartisan 2013 budget deal.

Any resolution of the mess appears to be months away since Republicans appear certain to go their own way on budget. Ultimately they'll need Obama's approval on any solution since they lack the votes to overcome any vetoes.

Obama requested an additional \$38 billion for the Pentagon and \$37 billion more for non-defense programs in his budget, financed by tax hikes and spending cuts such as curbing payments to health care providers. Republicans swiftly dismissed the idea.

Some Republicans, including Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., and hardliners in both the House and Senate, want to stick to the tighter limits. That means more money for defense could only come from raiding non-defense programs dear to Obama and his Democratic allies.

"What I want is the overall cap to stay in place if possible," McConnell said. "And it's a challenge because to restore money on defense, the Democrats are going to want to restore money on the domestic side. So it's a big challenge."

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WAR ON TERRORISM

NATO has no plans for new intervention in Libya

By JOHN VANDIVER
AND SLOBODAN LEKIC
Stars and Stripes

NATO is not currently considering another intervention in Libya, where the beheading of 21 Coptic Christians by Islamic State militants has prompted calls for a stronger international response.

"There is no discussion within NATO on taking military action in Libya," a NATO official said Tuesday. "However, Allies consult regularly on security developments in North Africa and the Middle East and we follow events in the region closely."

After the Islamic State posted video of the murder of the Egyptian Christians, Cairo announced on Monday that it had launched a series of airstrikes on militant targets. Top officials in Italy, just 200 miles across the Mediterranean Sea from Libya, have called for an international military response. Some have expressed concern that militants could mingle with the refugees fleeing to Italy via Libya.

The issue is a sensitive one for the Western military alliance, whose seven-month bombing campaign in Libya in 2011 is blamed by many for causing the current chaos.

Since that intervention, which led to the ouster and killing of strongman Moammar Gadhafi, the once-affluent oil-producing nation has collapsed into a virtually failed state. While the country has an internationally recognized transitional government, it is not recognized by the population as a whole.

Heavily armed militias control large parts of the country, and Islamic militant groups such as Ansar al-Sharia hold sway in other areas. Recently, the Islamic State has also been making inroads, taking advantage of a power vacuum.

"Egypt's desire to strike out militarily to solve the problem in Libya is understandable given the killing of its citizens," said Jacqueline L. Hazelton, a professor at the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, R.I. "And airstrikes can

degrade the capabilities of various armed actors within Libya. But more military intervention in Libya isn't going to solve the Libya problem."

Since NATO's air campaign over Libya — lauded by alliance leaders at the time as a new model for conducting humanitarian interventions — critics have said the West failed to take sufficient steps during the aftermath to help Libya rebuild itself.

Still, massive U.S.-led nation-building efforts in places such as Iraq and Afghanistan prove how fraught such rebuilding aid campaigns can be.

Hazelton said that by eliminating Gadhafi, a power vacuum was created that made the rise of multiple armed groups inevitable.

"The chaos in Libya was foreseeable before the West made its decision to militarily support the rebels (in 2011)," Hazelton said. "However well meant, that intervention did not help the West, and it did not help the Libyans suffering its aftermaths. Further military action is most likely to



EGYPTIAN DEFENSE MINISTRY/AP

An Egyptian fighter jet lands in Egypt on Monday after taking part in airstrikes against Islamic State targets in Libya in retribution for the extremists' beheading of Egyptian Christian hostages.

prolong their suffering."

For now, the U.S. appears focused on efforts aimed at political reconciliation in Libya rather than spearheading a military response in the country.

"It is time for Libyans to realize that only they can build a new Libya; only they can save their country," U.S. Ambassador to Libya Deborah K. Jones wrote in a Tuesday commentary in the Libya Herald marking the fourth anniversary of Libya's 2011 revolution. "Those who continue to fight, those who refuse to engage in dialogue, must be sanctioned by the international community and we are prepared to do that."

NATO, too, is focused on negotiated solutions.

"We also stand ready to support Libya with advice on defense and security institutions building, following the request made by the Libyan government in October 2013, once the security conditions allow," the NATO official said, speaking on customary condition of anonymity.

NATO, along with U.S. Africa Command, had hopes of training Libyan military forces, but security conditions in the country have delayed those plans indefinitely.

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NATION



PARLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/AP

A plow removes snow from the parking lot at the Pentagon after a storm Tuesday. The season's first major snow storm to blast large parts of the South dropped up to 8 inches of snow around the Washington area.

South, Mid-Atlantic dig out

First major storm to hit area leaves ice, snow in its wake

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON—The season's first major snow storm to blast large parts of the South struck early Tuesday at the nation's capital, poised to head up the winter-weary East Coast.

After weeks of snow in the Northeast, the mid-February storm raked several Southern states Monday, when many schools and business were closed for Presidents Day. By Tuesday morning, it was moving into the Mid-Atlantic states, prompting the federal government to close Washington-area offices to most workers.

The federal government's closure, the first of the winter,

was expected to keep tens of thousands of commuters off the roads and rails Tuesday morning and afternoon. The U.S. Office of Personnel Management said nonemergency personnel in the Washington area had excused absences while emergency employees and telework-ready employees were to follow their agencies' policies.

The storm initially moved across Arkansas and Kentucky, dispersing snow, sleet and freezing rain that prompted power outages, fender benders and other woes before heading across North Carolina and Virginia toward the East Coast.

In central Kentucky, home to

the state's signature thoroughbred industry, horses kept warm by galloping through deep snow, pausing occasionally to shake it off from their thick winter coats. Ned Toffey, general manager of Spendthrift Farm in Lexington, said the horses enjoy running in the snow because it gives them a nice cushion as opposed to the packed earth.

Roads were brined and parking lots salted as officials tried to avoid a disastrous repeat of last year's February storm, when rush-hour traffic and a thin coating of ice combined to leave people either stuck in their cars or their cars abandoned in roads as they walked home in Atlanta and Raleigh, N.C. That storm had dumped as much as 22 inches of snow in the North Carolina mountains and pelted the eastern part of the state with ice, much as was expected with the 2015 version.

North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory on Monday shut down all non-mandatory state government operations in Wake County early Monday afternoon before any precipitation had fallen. He also declared a state of emergency and issued executive orders designed to streamline any storm cleanup.

States such as Mississippi, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia were unlikely to get much sympathy from states in the Northeast, slammed by seemingly endless snow.

Though snow had stopped falling in many areas of the South on Monday, it was bitterly cold.

Freezing rain fell as far south as Mississippi, where more than 15,000 customers were without power Monday evening.

Derailed oil train threatens W.Va. town's water supply

By JOHN RABY
AND JONATHAN MATTISE
The Associated Press

MOUNT CARBON, W.Va. — Fires burned for hours after a train carrying more than 100 tankers of crude oil derailed in a snowstorm in West Virginia, sending a fireball into the sky and threatening the water supply of nearby residents, authorities and residents said Tuesday.

Officials evacuated hundreds of families and shut down two water treatment plants following the Monday afternoon derailment. The West Virginia National Guard was taking water samples to determine whether the oil had seeped into a tributary of the Kanawha River, state public safety division spokesman Larry Messina said.

On Tuesday, black smoke could be seen rising from some of the tanker cars in a photo posted by WSAZ-TV on Twitter.

Messina said fire crews decided to let the tanks burn themselves out.

Federal railroad and hazardous materials officials are investigating the accident, in which part of the train formation hit a house. The office of Gov. Earl Ray Tom-

blin, which has issued a state of emergency, said the tanker cars were loaded with Bakken crude from North Dakota and headed to Yorktown, Va.

All but two of the 109 cars being hauled were tanker cars, officials said. One person was treated for potential inhalation issues, but no other injuries were reported, according to a statement from CSX, the train company.

West Virginia American Water shut down a water treatment plant, located about 3 miles from the derailment, spokeswoman Laura Jordan said. Another water plant downstream in the town of Cedar Grove also closed its intake but later resumed operations, Messina said.

The U.S. Transportation Department is weighing tougher safety regulations for rail shipments of crude, which can ignite and result in huge fireballs. Responding to a series of fiery train crashes, the government proposed rules in July that would phase out tens of thousands of older tank cars that carry increasing quantities of crude oil and other highly flammable liquids. It's not clear how old the tankers were on the derailed train.



MARCUS CONSTANTINO, THE (CHARLESTON, W.VA.) DAILY MAIL/AP

Derailed oil tanker train cars burn near Mount Carbon, W.Va., on Monday. A CSX train carrying more than 100 tankers of crude oil derailed in a snowstorm, sending a fireball into the sky.



BRUCE NEWMAN, THE OXFORD EAGLE/AP

A man rides a bike past ice-coated trees and plants on University Avenue on Tuesday in Oxford, Miss. A snow and ice storm blasted parts of the Mid-Atlantic and the South, leaving hundreds of thousands without power.

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NATION



Mike Stone/AP

Eddie Ray Routh enters the courtroom following a break in his capital murder trial at the Erath County Donald R. Jones Justice Center in Stephenville, Texas, on Tuesday.

Judge in sniper trial denies defense request for mistrial

The Associated Press

STEPHENVILLE, Texas — A judge has denied a defense request for a mistrial in the case of a former Marine accused of killing “American Sniper” author Chris Kyle, the sniper’s friend.

The Dallas Morning News reported that the request came Tuesday in the trial of Eddie Ray Routh after prosecutors said they mistakenly suggested glass vials presented earlier belonged to Routh. Prosecutor Alan Nash said “inartful” questioning likely made jurors believe the vials stored in boxes of evidence seized from Routh’s house belonged to him.

Testimony showed crime lab workers put the vials in the boxes to preserve drug evidence. Judge Jason Cashon said the error could be corrected and instructed the jury to disregard the vials.

The trial has drawn intense interest, partly because of an Oscar-nominated film based on Kyle’s memoir.

A videotaped confession by the former Marine was shown to jurors Monday. Routh, 27, confessed to the February 2013 slayings but has pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity.

“I’m just sorry for what I’ve done,” Routh said in the interview with Texas Ranger Danny Briley, according to the Morning News. “I’ve got tons of people eating on my soul right now,” he added.

Criminal law experts say the case hinges on whether the defense can prove Routh was insane at the time and did not know the killings at a gun range constituted a crime. Briley testified Monday that Routh knew his actions were wrong.

Here is a look at key points in the case:

Who was Kyle?

Kyle served four tours in Iraq and made more than 300 kills as a sniper for SEAL Team 3, according to his own count. He earned

two Silver Stars for valor. After leaving the military, he volunteered with veterans facing mental health problems, often taking them shooting. He took Routh to the shooting range at the request of the troubled veteran’s mother.

Perspectives on Routh

Family members say Routh suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder after serving in Iraq and in Haiti after the devastating 2010 earthquake. Defense attorneys say Routh, who was taking anti-psychotic medication, was insane when Kyle and his friend, Chad Littlefield, took the former Marine to the shooting range to provide support and camaraderie. Routh, his lawyers say, believed the men planned to kill him.

In the confession played Monday, Routh said of Kyle, “If I did not take down his soul, he was going to take down mine,” the Morning News reported.

Prosecutors say Routh was a troubled drug user who knew right from wrong, even with a history of mental illness.

Some of Routh’s psychiatrists at Green Oaks Hospital, where he was admitted in September 2012 and in January 2013, are expected to testify.

The crime

On Feb. 2, 2013, Kyle, Littlefield and Routh drove to Rough Creek Lodge and Resort, which has a 1,000-yard shooting range. About 5 p.m., a resort employee discovered the bodies of Kyle and Littlefield on the ground amid scattered weapons; each had been shot several times.

About 45 minutes later, authorities say, Routh pulled up to his sister’s Midlothian home in Kyle’s truck and told her he had killed Kyle and Littlefield before driving away.

Last Thursday, prosecutors presented a video in which offi-

cers spoke with Routh as he sat in Kyle’s pickup. He refused to leave the vehicle and eventually sped off, with police in pursuit. The video shows a police vehicle ramming the pickup, which became disabled along the side of the road.

Trial highlights

Briley, the Ranger who interviewed Routh in the hours after the killings, was among those testifying Monday. Briley said Routh confessed to shooting the men.

“He stated that he knew it was wrong to kill them, that he wished he hadn’t done it,” Briley said under questioning by the prosecution.

Last week, a former deputy testified that he overheard Routh after he’d been taken into custody say he shot the men because they wouldn’t talk to him as the three drove together to the shooting range.

Kyle’s widow, Taya Kyle, testified about her husband’s passion for helping veterans and gun safety. Sometimes choking up and wiping away tears, Kyle testified that her husband and Littlefield were close and enjoyed spending time with veterans as they eased back into civilian life.

Prosecutors filed documents saying Routh smoked marijuana, drank excessively and had a history of killing small animals. On the day of the killings, Routh had been drinking and smoking marijuana and threatened his girlfriend with a knife, one of the documents says.

A Texas Ranger testified that authorities found marijuana, a near-empty bottle of whiskey and medication for schizophrenia while searching Routh’s small wood-framed home after the shooting.

The testimony could show that Routh deliberately put himself into a violent state, said Park Dietz, a forensic psychiatrist. “Voluntarily induced intoxication is not an excuse for the mentally ill,” he said.

Few rules on measles vaccines for teachers

BY CHRISTINE ARMARIO
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Much of the attention in the measles outbreak has focused on student vaccination requirements, but less attention has been paid to another group in the nation’s classrooms: teachers and staff members, who in general are not required to be vaccinated.

In most states, there is no law dictating which vaccines teachers and school staff workers are required to get. Some states provide a list of recommended vaccines.

So when a measles case surfaced at a California school, it was easy for officials to review student records, but there were no immunization records on file for employees. That meant all 24 teachers and staff reported to the employee with measles had to prove their immunity — records that, for most, were decades old.

The issue is likely to be raised in response to the latest outbreak, which originated at Disneyland in December and has spread to a half-dozen states and Mexico. Most of those who fell ill were not vaccinated. As of Friday, public health officials said 114 people had contracted measles.

Legislators and parents across the U.S. note that most of those sickened in the current outbreak are adults, and that schools are

one of the top places for the spread of communicable disease.

“I will be surprised if we don’t see some changes in the next year and a half,” said Kristen Amundson, executive director of the National Association of School Boards of Education.

Already, some states are considering measles legislation. In Vermont, Democratic Rep. George Till says legislators will try this year to require that teachers be up to date on the same vaccines students must receive. A similar bill he introduced in 2012 was defeated amid strong opposition from anti-vaccine groups, and he expects another battle.

In Colorado, pro-vaccination groups have been pushing the Department of Human Services to require vaccinations for workers at child care facilities, another area with uneven employee immunization standards. Measles cases have been confirmed at day care facilities in Chicago and Santa Monica, Calif.

Barbara Loe Fisher, director of the National Vaccine Information Center, a nonprofit that favors letting parents decide whether to vaccinate, said her organization has a number of concerns about requiring teacher vaccinations, including safety and job protection for those who cannot or choose not to be immunized.

2 inmates plead guilty to drug distribution within a Fla. jail

By Paula McMAHON

(Port Lauderdale, Fla.) Sun Sentinel

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — When the mail arrived at the Broward County jail, it looked like someone was putting in a lot of care and effort drawing cartoon characters and tattoo designs for a very special inmate.

There was more to those artistic postcards than met the eye: They were laced with a hallucinogenic drug that proved so popular behind bars that many inmates paid \$10 for a “hit” — a tiny torn scrap of postcard to put in their mouths and absorb the synthetic drug, court records show.

Two inmates, Gregory Golden, 41, and Dean Aubol, 35, pleaded guilty Friday to federal charges of conspiring to possess and distribute the drug, known as 251-NBOMe, which experts say has an effect similar to LSD.

A third man, William Hahne, 56,

has pleaded not guilty to the same federal charges and a related state charge of introducing contraband into the jail.

Federal prosecutors say Hahne made and mailed the drug-soaked cards to Aubol, and Aubol and Golden traded the drug with other inmates in exchange for cash or contraband items such as candy and snacks.

Jail officials did not know what was going on until August, when an inmate at the Joseph V. Conte Jail in Pompano Beach told law enforcement what he thought was LSD was being brought into the jail. The inmate said Hahne, who had been released from the jail several weeks earlier, was mailing Aubol envelopes containing postcard drawings laced with drugs.

“The contraband is then turned into tiny pieces (bits) and distributed throughout the jail by the inmates,” prosecutor Jodi Anton wrote in court records.

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NATION



A U.S. Customs and Border Protection Air and Marine agent looks for signs along a trail while on patrol near the Texas-Mexico border near McAllen, Texas, in September 2014. U.S. District Judge Andrew Hanen put a temporary hold on President Barack Obama's executive action on immigration Monday.

Judge stalls Obama's action on immigration

By JUAN A. LOZANO
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — A federal judge in Texas on Monday temporarily blocked President Barack Obama's executive action on immigration, giving a coalition of 26 states time to pursue a lawsuit that aims to permanently stop the orders.

U.S. District Judge Andrew Hanen's decision puts on hold Obama's orders that could spare as many as 5 million people who are in the U.S. illegally from deportation.

The decision does not judge the merits of the case, but it is a blow to a key Obama initiative that infuriated Republicans. The Justice Department planned to appeal the ruling, which the White House said "wrongly prevents" the president's "lawful, commonsense policies" from taking effect.

Obama took the sweeping measures in November, saying he had to act because comprehensive, bilateral to reform the country's immigration system was stalled in the Republican-controlled House.

Republicans' leaders said Obama's unilateral move would only make it more difficult to get bipartisan legislation through Congress. Congressional Republicans are vowing to block Obama's actions on immigration by cutting off Homeland Security Department spending.

Hanen wrote in a memorandum accompanying

his order that the lawsuit should go forward and that without a preliminary injunction the states will "suffer irreparable harm in this case."

"The genie would be impossible to put back into the bottle," he wrote, adding that he agreed with the plaintiffs' argument that legalizing the presence of millions of people is a "virtually irreversible" action.

The first of Obama's orders — to expand a program that protects young immigrants from deportation if they were brought to the U.S. illegally as children — was set to start taking effect Wednesday. The other major part of Obama's order, which extends deportation protections to parents of U.S. citizens and permanent residents who have been in the country for some years, was not expected to begin until May 19.

Joaquin Guerra, political director of the Texas Organizing Project, called the ruling a "temporary setback."

"We will continue getting immigrants ready to apply for administrative relief," he said in a statement.

The coalition of states, led by Texas and made up of mostly conservative states in the South and Midwest, argues that Obama has violated the "Take Care Clause" of the U.S. Constitution, which they say limits the scope of presidential power. They also say the order will force increased investment in law enforcement, health care and education.

Flurry of health law sign-ups as computer glitch is repaired

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — After a computer glitch got patched up, supporters of the U.S. health care law were out in force Sunday trying to get uninsured people signed up by the deadline for 2015 coverage.

The effort had the trappings of a get-out-the-vote drive, with emails, telephone calls and squads of community-level volunteers.

"You can't avoid it: TV, radio, church, wife, kids, co-workers," said Ramiro Hernandez, a previously uninsured truck repair shop owner who enrolled himself and his family in Joliet, Ill., on Saturday.

Technicians anxiously monitored the federal HealthCare.gov website for new bugs. The administration provided no statistics on weekend sign-ups, instead releasing numbers that showed tens of thousands of consumers were trying to connect, online and by phone.

Winter weather interfered in parts of the country. Rhode Island's state-run insurance marketplace extended its deadline until Feb. 23. Blowing snow and bitter cold affected not only walk-in enrollment sites but the state's call center as well. Online enrollment was still available.

New York, which is also running its own insurance market, announced a two-week extension for anyone who has started an application.

Federal officials have said they, too, would allow extra time for people to finish in the 37 states served by HealthCare.gov. Officials have not said how long that grace period will be.

The sign-up deadline in states served by the federal marketplace was 2:59 a.m. Eastern time Monday. Some states running their own exchanges have different deadlines.

The health law offers subsidized private coverage to people without access to it on the job.

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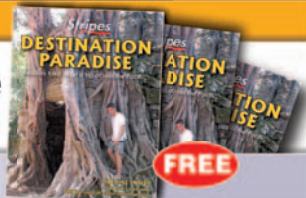
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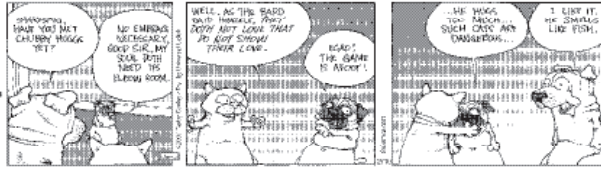
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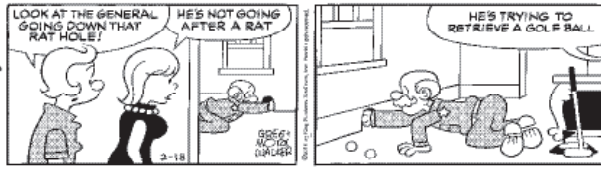
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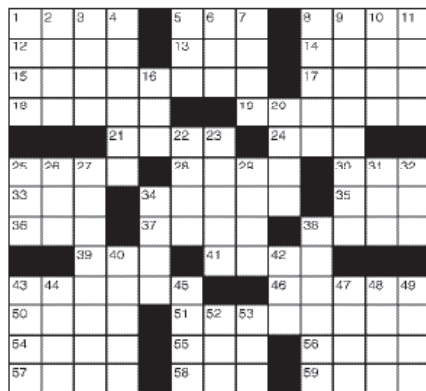
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Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Possesses
- 5 Squirrel's treat
- 8 Con game
- 12 Harvest
- 13 Victoria's Secret item
- 14 Fit as a fiddle
- 15 Room
- 17 Long heroic tale
- 18 Cut drastically
- 19 Gumshoe
- 21 Uncategorized (Abbr.)
- 24 List-ending abbr.
- 25 Medicine
- 28 Some retrievers, for short
- 30 Scenery chewer
- 33 "Selma" director
- 34 Mafia bosses
- 35 Mid-afternoon, in a way
- 36 Pound sound
- 37 Apollo's instrument
- 38 Tackles' teammates
- 39 Vest expanse
- 41 Persia, now
- 43 Influenza
- 46 Crazy
- 50 Demolish
- 51 Largest living rodent
- 54 Writer James
- 55 Carnival city

DOWN

- 6 Property claim
- 57 Nurse's handouts
- 58 Web address
- 59 Otherwise
- 22 Dispatch
- 23 Blue Grotto island
- 25 Rotation duration
- 26 Eggs
- 27 Overturned
- 29 Transvaal settler
- 31 Help
- 32 Wong (Prof.)
- 34 Sound of thunder
- 38 Facilitate
- 40 Tools for duels
- 42 Actress Adams
- 43 Metric measure
- 44 Anger
- 45 Beige
- 47 Hammer target
- 48 Inflammes
- 49 Prop for Dr. House
- 52 Melody
- 53 D.C. figure

Answer to Previous Puzzle



2-18

CRYPTOQUIP

FMFUY GUDLHYTY ZS FAJUTQQ

PFUGTU JD GTDGTK MPD

GTUIDUB LTUS ZUFLT FAJQ:

JPT BTYFK DI LFKTUHT.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE BUTCHER PLANS TO CONCOCT A STEW WITH THE ANIMALS' WASTE PARTS. I'M SURE IT'LL BE OFFAL.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals O

NATION



GERALD HENBERT/AP

The Krewe of Proteus Mardi Gras parade rolls down Napoleon Avenue in New Orleans on Monday.

Mardi Gras time: glitzy balls, then the parades

By STACEY PLAISANCE
AND JANET McCONAUGHEY
The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Revelers danced into the wee hours Tuesday at glitzy balls kicking off the annual Mardi Gras bash that spills costumed merry-makers into the streets of New Orleans for partying, parades and trinkets tossed from passing floats.

Al Johnson, singer of the catchy Mardi Gras tune "Carnival Time," served as grand marshal of the Red Beans and Rice foot parade, a Monday prelude to the all-out revelry known as "Fat Tuesday." He and others dined traditional fare of spicy red beans and rice before attending the Orpheus Ball, one of several as the partying began in this Mississippi River port.

Johnson told The Associated Press his catchy song — now synonymous with the annual Carnival seasons — got its inspiration from the Lower 9th Ward, a New Orleans district devastated by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. "It all started down there," he said of the Louisiana neighborhood where levees broke and surging storm-

waters splintered wooden homes. After Katrina, he said, "Life is going on." Celebrities and celebrity watchers are also around at Mardi Gras and this year was no exception.

The cast of the CBS crime drama "NCIS: New Orleans" got to experience Mardi Gras firsthand as they rode in the Orpheus parade late Monday, tossing beads to revelers lining city streets before heading off to the ball.

Other celebrities joining in this year's revelry were comedian Ron White and country music star Dierks Bentley.

Ordinary folks took to dressing up. Friends Alexandra Sergutin and Ashley Dornier, of New Orleans, said donning elegant gowns for the Carnival balls is one of their favorite Mardi Gras activities.

"It feels good to be a part of that tradition. It really does. It touches your heart," said Sergutin, draped in colorful beads. "... You're a part of something amazing and big."

Around daybreak Tuesday, retired clarinetist Pete Fountain was to help kick off the citywide party. The National Weather Service said some early rain was expected

to clear out shortly before for the first parades, with temperatures in the upper 30s to the lower 40s by midday.

Now 84, Fountain no longer makes the walk of 10 miles or so of his Half-Fast Walking Club, which he helped found more than half a century ago.

After Fountain's Half-Fast Walking Club, parade groups were to follow, including the "krewe of Rex, king of Carnival," who wears a golden crown and carries a golden scepter. That group features some of the season's most wildly fantastic floats. After Rex, two groups were to follow in "truck floats" — hundreds of flatbed trailers topped by costumed riders — whether families, clubs or other social groups.

The parades wind down late Tuesday afternoon and outdoor celebrations cease at midnight, when the solemn Catholic season of Lent begins.

New Orleans police ride horseback down the French Quarter's Bourbon Street to clear the last tipsy revelers at the end, signaling the party is over for another year.

Mont. community turns away teen with troubled past

By ALISON NOON
The Associated Press

HARRISON, Mont. — After Spencer Ore was banned from a Montana high school in 2013 for bringing two pistols to campus and was accused of making threats, his parents sought help with the hope that one day he would reintegrate into society.

Margaret and Stephen Ore visited him every weekend while he was in juvenile detention. They invested in nearly two years of treatment for underlying behavioral problems.

When his doctors and probation officers said Spencer, now 16, was well enough to return to public school, the Ores moved across the state to enroll him at a school in quiet, rural Twin Bridges.

Last month, parents at Twin Bridges discovered Spencer's past and successfully sued to block him from attending the school, a rejection that left the Ores wondering whether a boy like theirs can get a second chance to get an education in an age of school shootings.

"We were just hoping that he could be accepted into that community and have a chance to be a regular kid," his mother said.

For the 31 parents and grandparents who sued, it's a risk they are not prepared to take.

"The bottom line is we feel like we're getting a dangerous child shoved down the throats of all the people here in the school," said Brad Baumeister, one of those who filed the case. "It's upsetting."

Spencer's parents said he has no anti-depressants and medication for attention deficit-hyperactivity

disorder when he took a loaded .357 Magnum and unloaded .22 handgun to Harrison High School on Jan. 25, 2013.

Spencer spent a year between detention centers and therapy programs, but he was back home with his parents when things got worse for the Ores in January 2014.

Spencer showed major improvement at Normative Services in Sheridan, Wyo., the most drastic coming when he was entrusted the responsibility of heading a house of 14 boys.

He was released back to his parents in early fall and remains on probation until his 18th birthday. Along with mood-stabilizing medication to treat bipolar disorder, psychiatrists prescribed Spencer something else: social interaction, specifically at school.

Spencer has attended Boy Scouts in the new town, but the Ores dropped any notion that he might attend Twin Bridges when school officials told them last month that some parents were encouraging their kids to provoke him in order to get him expelled.

Spencer has been helping his father, a contractor, build and renovate homes while he's been out of school, but it's not what he wants to do. He aspires to attend college, study forestry and pursue a career in wildland firefighting.

He misses competing in cross country meets and attending home basketball games with his friends.

"I'd like to go back to school, hang out with other kids my age," Spencer said, shrugging slightly in his plaid button-down. "I just want to be a normal kid again."

Report of armed man panics LAX passengers

LOS ANGELES — About 20 passengers, some of them screaming and trampling others, fled through emergency doors and onto the tarmac at a Los Angeles International Airport terminal Monday after someone incorrectly said an armed man was on the loose, authorities and witnesses said.

The "misinformed announcement" near a boarding area apparently stemmed from a police pursuit of an unarmed driver that ended outside Terminal 2, LAX Police Sgt. Belinda Joseph said.

Police responded to an emer-

gency call around 9 a.m. reporting that a man may be trying to commit suicide. They apprehended the man, and the fire department took him to a hospital for treatment of an unspecified condition. But "someone said that there was a man with a gun, which was not true," Joseph said.

Police initially said the rumor was spread over a public address system but later said the announcement was made by someone at the gate area. It was unknown whether an airport or airline employee, a passenger or someone else spread the incorrect information.

From The Associated Press



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WORLD

Reputed gunman in Denmark was previously in jail

BY KARL RITTER
AND JAN M. OLSEN
The Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark — Denmark's domestic intelligence service acknowledged Tuesday that prison officials alerted the agency last year to the suspected gunman in last weekend's shooting attacks that killed two people and wounded five in Copenhagen.

The Danish Security and Intelligence Service, known by its Danish acronym PET, said the report in September didn't give any reason to believe that the 22-year-old was planning an attack.

PET also said it didn't have any intelligence before the gunman's shooting spree at a cultural center and synagogue that an attack was imminent.

A Danish documentary filmmaker and a Jewish security guard died and five police officers were wounded in the shootings before the gunman was killed early Sunday in a firefight with a SWAT team.

Two sources close to the case identified the gunman to The Associated Press as Omar Abdel

Hamid El-Hussein.

One said he was released from jail about two weeks before the attacks after serving time for a stabbing in November 2013.

A Denmark native with Palestinian parents, El-Hussein had been in and out of prison since 2011 after being convicted of weapons, violence and other offenses, court documents showed.

While he was awaiting trial for the random stabbing attack on a train passenger, a change in his behavior last summer set off enough "alarm bells" for jail authorities to alert PET, Denmark's counterterrorism agency, a source close to the investigation told the AP.

Such warnings usually set in motion counter-radicalization efforts, such as counseling in jail. It wasn't immediately clear how aware the court was of this issue; court documents have no mention of it. Sentenced to the time he had already served, El-Hussein was released about two weeks ago, the source said, speaking on condition of anonymity because police haven't officially identified the gunman.



MICHAEL PEORST/AP

Flowers are laid in front of the synagogue in Copenhagen, Denmark, on Tuesday following recent attacks by a Danish gunman. The reputed gunman who attacked a free-speech seminar and a synagogue had been released from jail two weeks ago.

On Monday, a judge ordered 10 days of pre-trial detention for two people accused of helping el-Hussein get rid of a weapon while evading authorities. Both men deny the charges, said Michael Juul Eriksen, a defense lawyer for one of the two.

Denish Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt said there was no indication that the gunman was part of a wider cell, but gave no evidence for that claim. She joined Danish Crown Prince

Frederik, foreign dignitaries and some 30,000 people Monday night to honor the victims outside the Krudttoenden cultural center.

The center, which was hosting a panel discussion with a Swedish artist who had caricatured the Prophet Muhammad, was the gunman's first target Saturday. The artist, Lars Vilks, was whisked away unharmed by his bodyguards. A 55-year-old documentary filmmaker was killed and three police officers were

wounded.

Later Saturday, police say, the gunman visited an Internet cafe before moving on to the synagogue, where he opened fire early Sunday on the Jewish security guard and two police officers.

Denmark has foiled a series of terrorist plots since the 2005 publication of 12 caricatures of the prophet in the Jyllands-Posten newspaper triggered riots in Muslim countries and calls for vengeance.

Ukrainian soldiers ambushed, captured in disputed city



PETER DAVID JOSEK/AP

Ukrainian government soldiers sit on top of their armored vehicle driving on a road stretching away from the town of Artemivsk, Ukraine, toward Debaltsevo on Tuesday.

The Associated Press

LUHANSKE, Ukraine — Several Ukrainian government soldiers have been ambushed and taken prisoners in Debaltsevo, the Defense Ministry said Tuesday. The ministry denied rebel claims that they have seized control of the key transportation hub.

The ministry said street fighting continued in Debaltsevo, which has been the epicenter of fighting in the past two weeks. It did not say how many soldiers had been seized in the ambush.

The Ukrainian presidential office earlier Tuesday called on the European Union and NATO to condemn the Russia-backed rebels for violating the cease-fire brokered by European leaders last week.

Russian news agencies quoted Valery Chaly, chief of the Ukrainian presidential administration, as saying that Kiev wants the EU and NATO to "resolutely condemn" the separatists for violating the deals.

The government troops and rebels faced a deadline Tuesday to start pulling back heavy weapons from the front line.

Rebel commander Vladimir Kononov said on Russian television most of Debaltsevo was under the rebels' control and urged the Ukrainian troops to surrender. "Their only choice is to leave behind weaponry, lay down arms and surrender," he said.

The announcement by the rebels came after fierce fighting that appeared to be focused on Debaltsevo. Both sides in the conflict

claim the town is on their side of the cease-fire line. The issue was not resolved under the cease-fire agreement negotiated last week by the leaders of Ukraine, Russia, Germany and France.

Also Tuesday, a deadline passed under the agreement for both sides to begin pulling back weaponry from the front line. The rebels said they were about to begin withdrawing their big guns on some sections of the frontline. A rebel military official, Eduard Basurin, announced in a televised briefing that they "will take the initiative" and begin to pull back heavy weaponry from the frontline.

The Ukrainian government insisted on a comprehensive cease-fire before pulling back its weaponry.

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WORLD

Hollande decries acts against Jews, Muslims

By SYLVIE CORBET

The Associated Press

SARRE-UNION, France — French President Francois Hollande said during a visit Tuesday to a vandalized Jewish cemetery in eastern France that the growing number of acts against Jews and Muslims threatens the country's very foundations.

Hollande spoke in the small Alsatian town of Sarre-Union, where 250 Jewish graves were desecrated over the weekend.

He noted that anti-Semitism and acts against Muslims are both on the rise in France, notably after the attacks last month in Paris on a satirical newspaper and a kosher grocery store that left 20 people dead, including the three gunmen.

"Must we put soldiers in front of cemeteries?" the president asked in a speech after surveying the overturned gravestones.

"How do we understand the unnameable, the unjustifiable, the unbearable?" Hollande said. "This

is the expression of the evils eating away at the Republic."

He promised firmness in finding and prosecuting those who carry out anti-Semitic or racist acts.

Five local teenagers — with no previous records — have been detained in connection with the cemetery desecration, but no charges were immediately filed.

Hollande said anti-Semitic acts doubled in 2014 compared with 2013, and acts against Muslims

in just the month after the attacks totaled the same as the entire previous year.

Those figures were underscored in a report on France released Tuesday by Council of Europe's human rights Commissioner Nils Muiznieks. The upward trend was part of an overall rise in racism in France, which shows that acts of discrimination and hate speech are resisting government efforts to beat back persistent intolerance.

The growing sense of insecurity

has pushed some French Jews to move to Israel, urged on by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's calls for the mass immigration of European Jews.

Some graves in the Sarre-Union cemetery date from 1770, and the extent of destruction struck a deep chord with the Jews of France.

"This anti-Semitic crime, this crime against nature... How can it be excused?" said Rene Gutman, chief rabbi of the city of Strasbourg.

Haiti Carnival accident kills at least 20

By EVENS SANON

The Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — At least 20 people on a music group's packed Carnival float in the Haitian capital were killed Tuesday when they were electrocuted by a power line, officials said.

The accident occurred as thousands of people filled the streets of downtown Port-au-Prince for the raucous annual celebration. People at the scene said someone on the float used a pole or stick to move a power line so the float could pass under it.

At least 20 people were killed and 46 were injured, according to Nadia Lochard, a coordinator for the Department of Civil Protection.

The float was sponsored by the Haitian hip-hop group Barikad Crew. Some of the victims were instantly electrocuted in a flash of sparks, according to witnesses. Others managed to jump off, causing panic in the crowd. "I saw the wire falling and sparks, and I started running for my life," said Natacha Saint Fleur, 22, who was near the float at the time.

Hundreds of people thronged the General Hospital, where many of the victims were taken, some carrying victims and others searching for family members brought by ambulance.



DIEU NALIO CHERY/AP

Doctors treat injured people at the emergency room of the General Hospital in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, early Tuesday.

Kosovars in despair on anniversary of independence

By NEET QENA

The Associated Press

PRISTINA, Kosovo — Jubilant throngs gathered around gigantic letters spelling "NEWBORN" when Kosovo declared independence from Serbia seven years ago. Today, there's a new national symbol: the bus stop where hundreds of people gather every day to flee a country they've given up on.

High hopes have turned to despair as Kosovars on Tuesday mark the anniversary of their dream of nationhood coming true. Tens of thousands of people, including at least 5,000 schoolchildren, have already fled on the nightly bus journey through Serbia and into the European Union. The mass movement of people — which some describe as an exodus — is a sign of simmer-



A street vendor displays the flags of Kosovo and Albania and other memorabilia in the Kosovo capital of Pristina on Monday.

ing discontent with the governing elites in Europe's youngest, poorest and most isolated country.

The departures, coupled with violent January protests, threaten to export Kosovo's economic and so-

cial troubles beyond its borders.

Lured by promises of a secure future abroad, many are happy to turn their backs on a country with rampant unemployment and corrupt officials — who critics say enjoy the protection of a justice system that caters to the elite.

Mirsad Muljic waved goodbye to his brother and his family boarding a bus to Serbia, then said, "They just want to get out of this filthy place." The unemployed Muljic said he would follow as soon as his brother settles down in Germany.

Europe's richest country has borne the brunt of the flow of refugees, with some 18,000 Kosovars entering since the beginning of the year.

Almost none has any chance of receiving asylum, German authorities say, because they are not considered political refugees.

Moscow seeks 10-year sentence for Navalny

MOSCOW — Prosecutors at an appeals hearing in Moscow are asking that opposition leader Alexei Navalny be sent to prison for 10 years.

Navalny was convicted in late December of fraud and given a 3½-year suspended sentence while his brother was sent to prison on charges of defrauding a French cosmetics company.

Russia news agencies on Tuesday quoted prosecutors at the appeals hearing at the Moscow city court saying that the gravity of the crime that Navalny allegedly committed calls for a prison sentence of 10 years.

Navalny, who was the driving force behind the 2011-12 mass protests in Moscow, is organizing major anti-government protests in several Russian cities for March.

Tsunamis advisory lifted after quake in Japan

TOKYO — A magnitude-6.9 earthquake struck off the northeastern coast of Japan early Tuesday, triggering minor tsunamis but no reports of major damage or injuries.

The Japan Meteorological Agency lifted a tsunami advisory two hours after it was issued following the quake, which hit at 8 a.m. Japan time.

Hours later, another strong offshore quake — magnitude 5.7 — shook the area following several smaller aftershocks reported in the area.

There was no fear of tsunami or damage from them.

The earlier quake's epicenter was at a depth of about 6 miles. It shook much of northeast Japan and could be felt in Tokyo 430 miles away. The second struck generally the same area at 1:46 p.m. but occurred at a much deeper 30 miles below the sea surface.

Small tsunamis of up to 8 inches were recorded after the first quake along the coast of Iwate prefecture, according to the agency, much smaller than the possible 3-foot tsunami mentioned in the advisory.

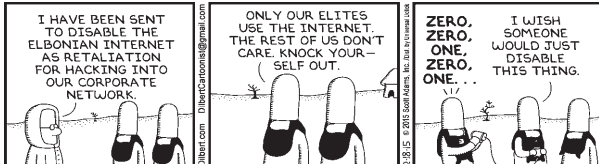
The same region was hit by a devastating earthquake and tsunami in March 2011, killing more than 18,000 people.

From The Associated Press

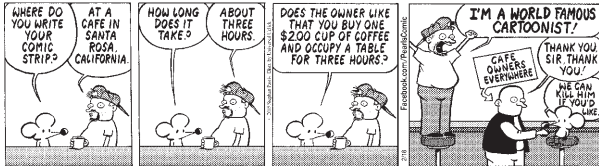
Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



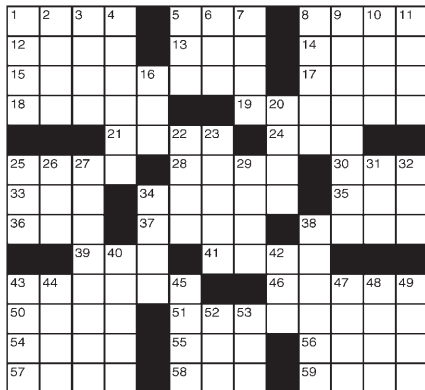
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Possesses
- 5 Squirrel's treat
- 8 Con game
- 12 Harvest
- 13 Victoria's Secret item
- 14 Fit as a fiddle
- 15 Room
- 17 Long heroic tale
- 18 Cut drastically
- 19 Gumshoe
- 21 Uncategorized (Abbr.)
- 24 List-end abbr.
- 25 Medics
- 28 Some retrievers, for short
- 30 Scenery chewer
- 33 "Selma" director DuVernay
- 34 Mafia bosses
- 35 Midafternoon, in a way
- 36 Pound sound
- 37 Apollo's instrument
- 38 Tackles' teammates
- 39 Vast expanse
- 41 Persia, now
- 43 Influenza
- 46 Crazed
- 50 Demolish
- 51 Largest living rodent
- 54 Writer James
- 55 Carnival city

DOWN

- 56 Property claim
- 57 Nurse's handouts
- 58 Web address
- 59 Otherwise
- 63 Folklore beasts
- 2 Whip mark
- 3 California wine valley
- 4 Twitches
- 5 Japanese sash
- 6 Illustrations
- 7 Knock-knock quartet
- 8 Bed linen
- 9 Monkey named for a monk
- 10 Oodles
- 11 Netting
- 16 Greek X
- 20 Not so much
- 22 Dispatch
- 23 Blue Grotto island
- 25 Rotation duration
- 26 Eggs
- 27 Overturned
- 29 Transvaal settler
- 31 Help
- 32 Wrong (Pref.)
- 34 Sound of thunder
- 38 Facilitate
- 40 Tools for duels
- 42 Actress Adams
- 43 Metric measure
- 44 Anger
- 45 Beige
- 47 Hammer target
- 48 Inflames
- 49 Prop for Dr. House
- 52 Melody
- 53 D.C. figure

Answer to Previous Puzzle



2-18

CRYPTOQUIP

FMFUY GUDLHYTY ZS FAJUTQQ

PFUGTU JD GTDGKT MPD

GTUIDUB LTUS ZUFLT FAJQ:

JPT BTYFK DI LFKTUHT.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE BUTCHER PLANS TO CONCOCT A STEW WITH THE ANIMALS' WASTE PARTS. I'M SURE IT'LL BE OFFAL.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals O

NATION

THE INCREDIBLE SHRINKING MONUMENT?

Washington landmark gets knocked

By BRETT ZONGKER
The Associated Press

Government surveyors have determined a new height for the Washington Monument that's nearly 10 inches shorter than what has been recorded for more than 130 years, officials said Monday.

The new measurement puts the monument at 554 feet, 7 and 11 thirty-seconds of an inch as measured from the floor of the main entrance to the top. Ever since the stone obelisk was completed in 1884, the historic height has been recorded at 555 feet, 5 and 1/8 inches. It's a number circulated for decades on tours of the capital, and in classes about the

monument honoring the nation's first president.

Could this be a case of an incredible shrinking monument? Has it sunk into the ground more than previously thought? No, said the chief scientist at the National Geodetic Survey, which conducted the measurement with accuracy to within 1 millimeter.

Modern international standards from the Council of Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat — an official guideline for building measurements — call for a different base point than what was likely used in the 1880s, Dr. Smith said. This standard measures from the lowest open-air pedestrian entrance to the building.

"The building didn't change height because of anything; it is just where you start from," Smith

said.

The National Geodetic Survey and National Park Service revealed the survey results on Presidents Day, which also celebrates President George Washington's birthday.

The original measurement conducted in 1884 is believed to have used four brass markers as a base for measurement. A new plaza was installed around the monument more recently, and "it's clear that what was ground level has changed over the years," Smith said.

Measurements from the brass markers to the top in 1999 and 2014 essentially reconfirmed the original measurement, showing the 1884 measurement was done with "incredible accuracy."

The only observable height change was the pyramid-shaped tip had been rounded off over time.

Surveyors in 1934 believed it was due to frequent lightning strikes that melted the aluminum tip.

When the monument was completed in 1884, it was the world's tallest structure until 1889, when the Eiffel Tower was built. It remains by far the tallest structure in the nation's capital, which strictly restricts building heights. Most buildings are shorter than the U.S. Capitol dome, which rises 288 feet.

The new survey was conducted while the monument was wrapped in scaffolding for restoration work following a 2011 earthquake. Earlier survey results showed the monument did not sink any further into the ground as a result of the magnitude-5.8 earthquake.

A photographer is silhouetted in the reflecting pool as he captures the sunrise behind the Washington Monument on Oct. 8.

J. DAVID AKE/AP



WIRED WORLD



PHOTOS BY DAN HONDA, BAY AREA NEWS GROUP/TNS

Above: Aviation student Thomas Munka, of San Francisco, does a visual check while making his approach for landing during a flying lesson in Concord, Calif. **Below:** Munka, exiting the aircraft, is one of a growing number of tech workers in the Bay Area who have developed an interest in learning to fly and perhaps buying their own aircraft.

BY PATRICK MAY
San Jose Mercury News

WHEN it comes to riding Silicon Valley's soaring tech boom, the sky's not the limit—it's simply the next rung in the ladder.

In another byproduct of the digital Gilded Age that has turned the Bay Area into one big startup-tropolis, the tech community is undergoing a remarkable altitudinal adjustment. Whether it's Intel using its fleet of corporate jets to essentially run a private regional airline, or the retired Apple big shot getting his pilot's license so he can zip back from his San Luis Obispo home to have lunch in Cupertino, or the San Francisco twenty-something learning to fly because it's a "beautiful hobby" that lets him "defy physics," the region's tech warriors are spreading their wings.

"I'm seeing more and more young people who've made money from tech start-ups and are now buying planes," said Walt Gyger, owner of the Trade Winds Aviation flight school at Reid-Hillview Airport in San Jose. "Back in 2008, people were holding off on spending on a dream like flying, but that money is coming back now."

Big tech companies are using private jets to shuttle their CEOs between meetings in Santa Barbara, Seattle and Denver, sometimes in a single day, and the IPO-endowed are using their stock-option windfalls to buy fractional shares in Net-Jets planes.

Vickie Buonocore, publisher of San Mateo-based In Flight USA, has noticed an increased interest in private aircraft, especially among companies "looking for ways to quickly get their executives around



"If it becomes cost-effective to travel around by plane, I might do that. ... I can see this as a reality for more and more people in the Bay Area, too."

Thomas Munka

23-year-old flight student and telecom employee in San Francisco

the country and the world. Private planes let you go where you want and when you want, without security hassles or waiting in long lines."

With the worsening congestion on Bay Area roads, flight student Tom Munka said it's only a matter of time before he

and his fellow pilots will be "aero-commuting" around the region. Munka, 23, a San Franciscan working for a telecom company and learning to fly at Sterling Flight Training Center in Concord, Calif., said he hopes to buy a plane after he gets his license and use it initially for leisure

but eventually for business.

"If it becomes cost-effective to travel around by plane, I might do that," said Munka. "With the traffic becoming so congested, it can take one hour to drive across San Jose. In L.A., we're starting to see more and more people aero-commuting, with the airport parking lots full by 7 a.m., and I can see this as a reality for more and more people in the Bay Area, too."

The flexibility and speed of private aviation have been shown to help boost the bottom line, an important point given the competitive pressure cooker Silicon Valley is these days. One industry survey showed that companies using private aviation enjoyed an 11 percent higher market-cap growth than those that didn't use it and that they also generated more income due to productivity.

There are private planes for hire, like the ones from JetSuite, that have become go-to travel choices for the Valley's rich and powerful. Less expensive options like "all-you-can-fly" airline Surf Air, a startup that offers a monthly membership for \$1,750 (with a \$1,000 sign-up fee) lets members hop on daily scheduled flights up and down the state, pretty much to their heart's content.

"The new commodity is time," said Justin Hart, vice president of member acquisition for Santa Monica-based Surf. "You have your typical executive in the Bay Area who's making \$400,000 a year but chooses not to buy his own plane. But he needs to get to a meeting in L.A. and he knows his company values his time, so he can't afford to wait in line for 90 minutes at LAX, dreading what awaits him at SFO."

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Police chasing truck dodge thrown fridge

PA BELLE VERNON — A tractor-trailer driver threw items from his cab at police — including a small refrigerator — as he led them on a 34-mile chase in western Pennsylvania, authorities said Sunday.

Police in Westmoreland County said a man called emergency dispatchers just before 2 a.m. Saturday and said he planned to wreck his truck. State troopers tried to stop the vehicle near Washington Township and a pursuit began.

"During the pursuit, the driver threw numerous items at pursuing troopers from the cab," including a steel canister that struck a Greensburg state police unit and disabled it, police said. The driver also threw a mini refrigerator before the truck was stopped with spike strips shortly after 3 a.m. Saturday.

The driver, Christopher Charles Boyer, 47, is charged with aggravated assault, fleeing or attempting to elude, reckless endangering, resisting arrest and other counts.

Woman gets 4 years for home sex business

MO ST. LOUIS — A woman has been sentenced to four years in prison after pleading guilty to operating an underground brothel and strip club in her home.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported Carmen A. Fluker pleaded guilty in October to a federal felony charge of promoting prostitution.

Police say she used her one-story brick home to host nude dancers and sell liquor. They say her teenage son's bedroom doubled as a VIP room for private dances. She would announce the club was open by texting prospective customers.

In 2011, police raided a similar type of club being run out of Fluker's Bel-Ridge home. About 30 people were arrested, but Fluker and her then-husband weren't charged.

Drug charges dismissed as tests show vitamins

MN MANKATO — A Mankato man was jailed for months while he waited for the state crime lab to process suspected drugs that turned out to be vitamins.

Joseph Burrell, 31, was arrested in November and charged with two felony counts of drug possession. His bail was set at \$250,000. Burrell said he is not happy it took so long for the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension to process the evidence.

Blue Earth County assistant attorney Chris Kovney said a field test was positive for amphetamine. A more accurate lab test done by BCA showed the bag of powder found in Burrell's car didn't contain anything illegal.

Charges were dismissed just as Burrell was about to go to trial early this month. He had just completed a stay at a drug treatment center when he was stopped.



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

Pig on parade

Angela Pizzitola stands with a pig named Emmitt James as they wait for the start of the Krewe of Barkus and Meoux parade along the seawall in Galveston, Texas, on Sunday. The parade is sponsored by the Galveston Island Humane Society as a way to involve family pets in the spirit of Mardi Gras

Ex-prosecutor guilty in child porn loses license

ME PORTLAND — Maine's former top drug prosecutor — who fled to New Mexico after being convicted of child pornography charges — has lost his law license.

The Maine Supreme Judicial Court issued a court order in which it agreed with the Board of Bar Examiners that James Cameron should lose his right to practice law.

Cameron is appealing his nearly 16-year sentence, which includes two additional years be-

cause he sparked a nationwide manhunt when he cut off his electronic monitoring bracelet and fled in 2012. He evaded capture for nearly three weeks before being arrested at an Albuquerque convenience store.

Cameron, 52, once led the state's drug prosecutions and served as an assistant attorney general for 18 years before being fired in 2008.

Rescuers seek missing hiker in mountains

NH LANCASTER — New Hampshire's Fish and Game Department officers are

planning to resume their search for a hiker in the White Mountains who activated a personal locator beacon indicating an emergency.

Sgt. Mark Ober said crews searched through the night Sunday in fierce winds and frigid temperatures for the hiker. They hiked more than 3 miles to a location north of Mount Madison and searched in deep snow and woods in an area identified by the signal.

Searchers were unable to find any sign of the hiker and were forced to suspend the search due to temperatures of 20 degrees below zero with winds of 60 to 80 mph and low visibility.

Ober said the beacon is regis-

THE CENSUS

14 The length in years of the prison sentence for a man convicted of distributing more than a ton of marijuana smuggled from Canada into the U.S. through the Mohawk Indian reservation. Allan Peters, of Malone, N.Y., was sentenced Friday in U.S. District Court in Syracuse. Prosecutors say Peters and associates smuggled thousands of pounds of marijuana across the border between 2005 and 2011, carrying it in hockey bags. The U.S. Border Patrol seized about 250 pounds of marijuana from the smuggling ring in May 2009 in North Hudson in Essex County.



tered to Kate Matrosova, 32, of New York City.

Brewery owner wants to reopen Robber's Cave

NE LINCOLN — A Lincoln brewery owner wants to reopen Robber's Cave and to use its local lore to help sell some beer.

Legend has it that outlaw Jesse James used the cave as a hideout, but a local historian says there's no evidence of that. In 1869, Lincoln Brewery enlarged the cave and stored barrels of beer and beer ingredients there.

Brian Podwinski, who owns Blue Blood Brewing, told the Lincoln Journal Star that he has a deal to buy the property and to construct a building above ground to house his brewery and an expanded taproom and restaurant.

Oscar Mayer Wienermobile crashes

PA ENOLA — An iconic Oscar Mayer Wienermobile crashed into a pole in central Pennsylvania.

Officials said the giant hot dog on wheels slid off a road and slammed into a pole Sunday in Enola, near Harrisburg.

No injuries were reported. The front of the 27-foot Wienermobile was damaged. The crash snarled local traffic.

State inmate's death is ruled a homicide

WI PORTAGE — Sheriff's officials say the death of a state prison inmate in Columbia County is a homicide.

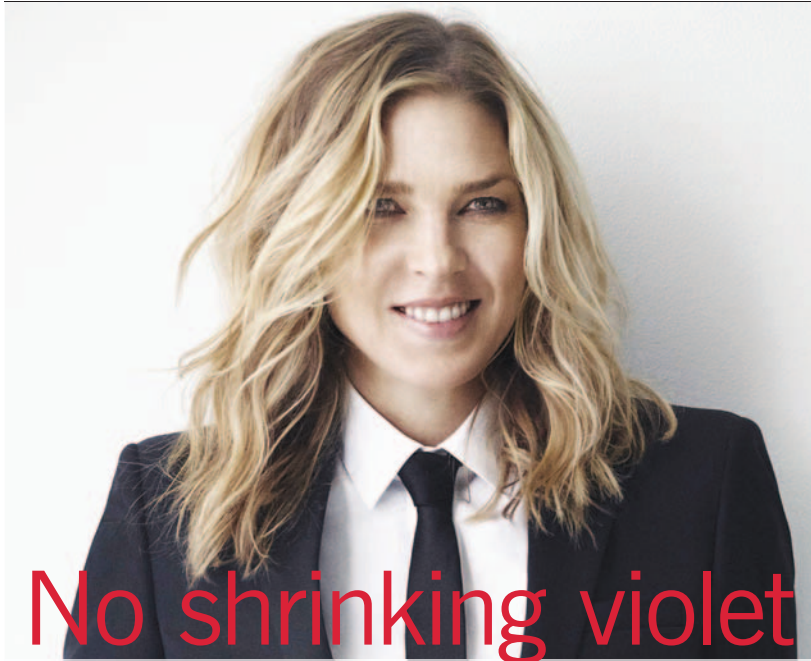
Authorities said Monday an autopsy shows Jerome Scott, 40, died by ligature strangulation at the Columbia Correctional Institution.

Investigators say Scott's cellmate is accused of killing him Feb. 12. The 42-year-old cellmate is reportedly cooperating with authorities.

Columbia County Sheriff Dennis Richards said in a statement that both men are from the Milwaukee area and both were incarcerated for previous homicide-related convictions.

From wire reports

FACES



No shrinking violet

Diana Krall boldly goes pop on new album, 'Wallflower'

BY CHARLES J. GANS
The Associated Press

Singer-pianist Diana Krall wants to make one thing clear about her latest release, "Wallflower": It's a pop album, not a jazz album.

For her 12th album, Krall enlisted fellow British Columbian David Foster, a 16-time Grammy winner. Foster did the arrangements and played most of the piano parts, freeing Krall to focus on her vocals.

Three Rock and Roll Hall of Famers provide background vocals on several tracks: Stephen Stills, Graham Nash and Timothy B. Schmit of the Eagles (on his own "I Can't Tell You Why"). Krall sings duets with two fellow Canadians: Michael Buble on Gilbert O'Sullivan's "Alone Again (Naturally)" and Bryan Adams on Randy Newman's "Feels Like Home."

The repertoire mostly includes pop ballads from the '60s and '70s, including The Mamas and the Papas' "California Dreamin'," The Eagles' "Desperado" and Elton John's "Sorry Seems to Be the Hardest Word."

The title track is an obscure Bob Dylan song that Krall discovered on one of his "Bootleg Series" records. The newest song is a previously unreleased ballad by Paul McCartney, "If I Take You Home Tonight."

Krall kicks off a 27-city U.S. tour on Feb. 25 in Boston.

A conversation with Diana Krall:

Why did you want to do a pop album?

I had a chance to work with David Foster, whom I've known for a long time. I felt that this was the right time and the right person to do this kind of record with. David has a jazz background, but he's also a great pop producer and incredible accompanist, which I discovered more and more as I was working with him. ... I really made it clear that I didn't want to do a jazz record. ... I wanted to do a pop record and keep the integrity of the original melody and

“I don't think I'm abandoning anything. ... I've always seen myself as a jazz pianist first.”

chord changes.

Do you feel a personal connection with these songs from the '60s and '70s?

I don't think I could do things that I don't find some connection to. It's not like I'm pulling songs from another era that mean nothing to me. I sang pop music most of my life. I was a somewhat normal young person listening to pop music — Crowded House, Linda Ronstadt, Bryan Adams — and playing it. Elton John was always a hero of mine.

What was it like working with Paul McCartney on his standards album, "Kisses on the Bottom"?

That whole time working with Paul was probably one of the greatest experiences in my life. He's just an amazing, good person. ... I was the band leader, piano player and accompanist, and I loved being in that role. Every day it was a joy to come into the studio and see Paul and (producer) Tommy LiPuma work together.

Paul had written some romantic ballads of his own to include on the record, but fortunately for me, one song, "If I Take You Home Tonight," did not make it on the record. I asked, "Paul, do you think it would be OK if I did the song on my record?" and he said sure. How exciting is it to do a new Paul McCartney song? It's one of my favorite tracks.

Are you worried about how your fans might react to "Wallflower" — that some might think you're abandoning jazz for pop?

I don't think I'm abandoning anything. ... I've always seen myself as a jazz pianist first. The major influence in my life is Nat King Cole, although I don't put myself in the same category as him. I know that some will like this album and some will not. You cannot control that. ... You just want to make a beautiful record that you love, coming from an honest place, and hope that everybody else will love it.

Photo courtesy of Universal Music Group

Lady Gaga engaged to 'Chicago Fire' actor

Lady Gaga is no longer caught in a bad romance: She's engaged to actor Taylor Kinney.

The pop star shared the news on her Instagram account Monday. She posted a photo of a ring on her finger and wrote: "He gave me his heart on Valentine's Day, and I said YES!"

Gaga and Kinney met on the set of her "You & I" video in 2011. Kinney stars in the NBC series "Chicago Fire" and had a role in the film "Zero Dark Thirty."

Gaga's hits include "Poker Face," "Bad Romance" and "Applause." She recently won her sixth Grammy Award, for her "Cheek to Cheek" album with Tony Bennett.

'It's My Party' singer, songwriter Gore dies at 68

Singer-songwriter Lesley Gore, who topped the charts in 1963 at age 16 with her epic song of teenage angst, "It's My Party," and followed it with the hits "Judy's Turn to Cry," and the feminist anthem "You Don't Own Me," died Monday. She was 68.

Gore, a non-smoker, died of lung cancer at New York-Presbyterian Hospital in Manhattan, according to her partner of 33 years, Lois Sasson.

Gore was discovered by Quincy Jones as a teenager and signed to Mercury Records. She graduated from Sarah Lawrence College with a degree in English/American literature.

Gore co-wrote with her brother, Michael, the Oscar-nominated "Out Here On My Own" from the film "Fame."

During the 2012 presidential campaign, Gore turned "You Don't Own Me" into an online video public service announcement demanding reproductive rights which starred Lena Dunham and Tavi Gevinson, among others.



Pharrell has deal for 4 children's picture books

Pharrell has a "Happy" deal for a series of children's picture books.

The performer has an agreement with Putnam Books for Young Readers for four picture books, starting with one inspired by his hit song "Happy."

Putnam announced Tuesday the book "Happy" will be published Sept. 22 and will feature photographs of children from around the world "celebrating what it means to be happy."

Pharrell has won 10 Grammys, including two for "Happy," which was featured on the "Despicable Me 2" soundtrack and was an Oscar nominee last year for best song.

'SNL' 40th anniversary watched by 23 million

The Nielsen ratings company says NBC's "Saturday Night Live" 40th anniversary bash drummed up a huge audience. Preliminary figures indicate Sunday's retrospective special was seen by 23.1 million viewers. That makes the 3½-hour show NBC's most-watched prime-time entertainment special since May 2004, when the network aired a "Friends" clips show the night of its series finale.

It's NBC's most-watched prime-time entertainment broadcast overall, excluding post-Super Bowl programs, since May 2004, for an episode of "ER" the night of the "Frasier" series finale.

From The Associated Press

\$1B bank theft may still affect consumers

Doug Johnson, senior vice president at the American Bankers Association, said there's no evidence that any U.S. bank has

Still, more people have become vigilant about monitoring their transactions and responding to alerts from their banks if a charge or withdrawal appears to be suspicious.

It appears as though the hacker gang accessed computers by

Yet the hacking attempts continue to evolve in ways that indicate the battle may never end.

INTEREST RATES	
Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.75
Federal funds market rate	0.12
3-month bill	0.02
30-year bond	2.65

THURSDAY IN THE PACIFIC

CHINA, RUSSIA, N. KOREA, S. KOREA, JAPAN, Pacific Ocean, Sea of Japan, Philippine Sea, Okinawa, Guam.

Seoul 47/29, Osan 47/26, Busan 51/32, Sasebo 50/39, Okinawa 60/55, Iwakuni 50/37, Misawa 36/30, Tokyo 56/38, Guam 83/75.

The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

Oracello	53	29	Cir	Shreveport	53	27	Cir	
Portland, Maine	16	6	Snow	Sioux City	16	1	Cir	
Portland, Ore.	10	1	Snow	Sioux Falls	10	1	Cir	
Pueblo	30	12	PCldy	South Bend	11	-2	Snow	
Providence	47	21	9	Cir	Spokane	50	32	PCldy
Rochester, N.Y.	28	14	Cldy	Springfield, Ill.	10	0	Cldy	
Rapid City	28	14	Cldy	Springfield, Mo.	19	0	Cldy	
Reno	70	35	Cldy	Cir	Syracuse	20	0	Cldy
Richmond	12	2	Snow	Tampa	58	41	PCldy	
Roanoke	30	4	Snow	Tampa	58	41	PCldy	
Rochester	12	2	Snow	Tampa	58	41	PCldy	
Rockford	7	-8	Cir	Topeka	20	4	Cir	
Sacramento	69	46	Cir	Tucson	78	48	Cir	
St. Louis	59	46	PCldy	Tulsa	31	7	Cldy	
St. Petersburg	59	46	PCldy	Tulsa	31	7	Cldy	
St. Thomas	85	75	Cldy	Waco	59	34	Cldy	
Salerno	75	40	Cldy	Waco	59	34	Cldy	
Salt Lake City	56	35	Cir	W. Palm Beach	68	43	Cldy	
San Angelo	65	37	Cir	Wichita	33	16	PCldy	
San Antonio	67	40	Cir	Wichita	33	16	PCldy	
San Diego	69	55	PCldy	Wilkes-Barre	24	4	Cldy	
San Francisco	51	35	Wdly	Wilmington, Del.	54	33	PCldy	
San Jose	69	55	PCldy	Yakima	54	33	PCldy	
San Juan, P.R.	87	74	Cldy	Youngstown	11	-4	Snow	
Seattle	56	24	Cir					
St. Ste Marie	2	-18	Cir					
St. Stephen	53	26	Cir					

Stripes

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OPINION

Jordan takes key steps to battle terrorists

By DAVID IGNATIUS

One of the weaknesses of the U.S.-led coalition against the Islamic State is that America isn't trusted as a messenger in much of the Arab world. So it is important that Jordanian King Abdullah II seems ready to play an unusually visible role in organizing Arab opposition to the extremists.

Abdullah is moving against the jihadis on two fronts, ideological and military. He is bolstered by a rare national consensus in Jordan after Lt. Muath al-Kaseasbeh was burned alive in a cage by the jihadis. The pilot was from a bedrock tribal family in the East Bank town of Karak, and his death angered and unified the country. Jordanians who have been carrying placards saying "We are all Muath" seem to mean it.

What's crucial about Jordan's new activism is that it could give the coalition an Arab and Muslim face, rather than just an American one. The U.S. is viewed with such deep suspicion in the region that Arab leaders who cooperate too openly are often branded as puppets of the "Crusaders." At some political risk, Abdullah has decided to break that taboo.

The ideological side of the campaign will begin with an effort to gather a core group of Arab and Muslim countries that share opposition to the Islamic State. In addition to Jordan, this nucleus would likely include Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Morocco and Pakistan.

This Muslim coalition plans to convene a conference within the next month or so at Al-Azhar University in Egypt, which

for centuries has been the arbiter of mainstream Sunni doctrine. The hope is that Al-Azhar would provide religious authority for a continuing battle against extremism. The U.S. would help the coalition create a global network of countermessaging centers. That approach will be discussed this week at a White House conference on violent extremism.

On the military side, the Jordanians have for weeks been bombing Islamic State targets in Iraq and Syria. But a more important move may be their effort to work with the Iraqi government to arm and train a Sunni "national guard" that can eventually help liberate Sunni areas that were overrun last year by the Islamic State. This cooperation with the Shiite-led government in Baghdad would once have been heresy for Jordan.

The Jordanians seem convinced that Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, though friendly with Iran, is also serious about outreach to Sunnis. The groundwork for cooperation was laid when Iraqi Defense Minister Khaled al-Obeidi visited Amman in December. Gen. Mashal al-Zaben, Jordan's military chief of staff, paid a reciprocal visit to Baghdad last week to negotiate details of the training plan. But the deal hasn't been pinned down yet, which makes some Sunnis worry that it's just talk.

Sunni tribal leaders in Iraq are caught between their resentment of Islamic State fighters who have seized their towns and their mistrust of Abadi's government. That ambivalence was evident Friday when I interviewed two tribal leaders, Sheikh Yazdan al-Jibouri and Jalal al-Gaoud. They

were wary of cooperating with Baghdad so long as al-Abadi allows Shiite militias to operate in Anbar. An angry Zaydan showed grills cellphone pictures of the corpses of two members of his tribe who had been brutally murdered a week earlier by Shiite militiamen in Ramadi.

But Sunni support for cooperation seemed to increase Friday night after more than 50 tribal sheikhs met in Amman with the governor of Anbar province and the head of the governing council there. The visiting Iraqi said that the Sunni speaker of the Iraqi parliament, Salim al-Jibouri, would convene a Baghdad conference soon to rally resistance to the jihadis. The sheikhs came away encouraged.

The deal breaker is the expanding role across Iraq of the Shiite militias. If al-Abadi can't prevent those Iranian-backed fighters from operating in Sunni areas, the budding alliance between Amman and Baghdad is likely to fail. It's an example of the central dilemma in the U.S. strategy, which requires cooperation between two groups that have been fighting a sectarian war.

Until there's solid evidence that al-Abadi is serious about arming a Sunni national guard and containing the Shiite militias, I'm skeptical about whether this strategy will work. But I agree with al-Gaoud, a leader of the Albu Nimr tribe that was ravaged last fall by the extremists. Even after such disasters, he told me, if a just balance can be found in Iraq, "we are all brought back from the brink."

David Ignatius is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

Francis on the clock to open Vatican Bank files

By GERALD POSNER

Pope Francis, who has worked hard to carve out a reputation as a reformer, is facing one of his most daunting challenges when it comes to the Catholic Church's finances, particularly the Vatican Bank. Since World War II — when the bank was created as the equivalent of the Federal Reserve combined with a commercial bank — it has operated with few checks and balances. Over the decades, it has become embroiled in seemingly endless scandals that include questions about wartime profiteering with Nazis, gigantic business schemes and political slush funds.

The Vatican did not even have a law against money laundering until 2011. Some previous popes — including Paul VI in the 1960s and John Paul II in the 1980s — had promised upon their election to tame the church's unruly finances. But they were inevitably defeated by entrenched powers inside Vatican City who pretended to embrace reforms while working surreptitiously to maintain the bank's outlier status. The issue facing the church is whether Francis, riding a remarkable wave of international popularity and goodwill, can accomplish what frustrated his predecessors.

Since becoming pope in 2013, Francis has energetically tried to remake the bank into a transparent and accountable institution through decrees, key appointments and an overall reorganization. By tapping outsiders for important management and enforcement roles at the Vatican Bank, he has started to loosen the grip of old-guard clerics, mostly Italian, who have long wielded the power known as the "Nazi" mass murder of innocents, but also crucially important documents from the Vatican

see a new uber financial department, has received a mostly positive reception from Vatican watchers.

But has Francis done enough? Will the Vatican Bank move forward as a compliant member of the international financial community, or will it remain the equivalent of an offshore bank in the heart of Rome? It is too early to tell, in part because no one is certain how long Francis will be pope.

He is 78, so in the cutthroat world of Vatican backdoor politics some of his opponents are already jostling to prepare for a post-Francis papacy. A few had tried to derail his election by spreading rumors that he was physically too weak to be pope, a teenager he had lost one lung to an infection. Other insiders did not like that Francis had never worked inside the Vatican. Others wanted an Italian as pope after 35 years under Polish and German pontiffs. Those same powers — some cardinals and other ranking clerics inside the Curia, the Vatican's bureaucracy — are still in place. And they are quietly bristling at Francis' reform efforts, considering them a misguided abridgment of the Vatican's sovereign right.

There is little doubt that if Francis' tenure is not long, those who want to roll back the clock on money reforms will have a chance at doing so. This means that with the clock running, Francis needs to take bold steps that cannot be undone, even by a regressive future pope.

One key move Francis could make is to approve the release of the Vatican's Holocaust-era files in its secret archives. They probably contain not only answers to how early the Vatican knew about the Nazis' mass murder of innocents, but also crucially important documents from the Vatican

Bank, founded in June 1942. My research reveals that the bank hid behind mostly cloaked investments in Italian insurers to reap profits in Nazi-occupied countries. Some profits might have come from the theft of life insurance proceeds from Jewish policyholders who died in Nazi death camps.

But the answers regarding the precise role the bank might have played with the German and Italian fascists remain off limits. As recently as 2013, the Vatican denied my request for access to those files.

In 2010, when Francis was the cardinal of Buenos Aires, an author asked him about those sealed documents. "What you said about opening the archives relating to the Shoah (Holocaust) seems perfect to me. They should open them and clarify everything. The objective has to be the truth," the future pontiff said.

Since Francis was no unequivocal before he became pope, there was high hope that he would quickly release the documents to independent historians for review. Despite pleas from Jewish groups and leaders during his visit to Jerusalem in May, he did nothing.

It is time for Francis to free the files. It would burnish his reformer pedigree. And it is an act that could not be reversed. In so doing, Francis would send the unequivocal message that his insistence on transparency is not simply a buzzword but a theme he insists on applying to the finances of the church, both in its past and going forward. He would cement his reputation as the tough new sheriff in town.

When it comes to the Vatican Bank, a dose of law and order seems long overdue.

Gerald Posner is the author of "God's Bankers: A History of Money and Power at the Vatican." This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

OPINION

War authorization weak and unnecessary

By MARC A. THIESSEN
The Washington Post

President Barack Obama has asked Congress to authorize the use of force against the Islamic State, declaring in his State of the Union address that "[w]e need that authority." No, he doesn't.

Obama has been using force against the Islamic State for six months now. Between his inherent authority as commander in chief and two existing authorizations for the use of military force, he has all the authority he "needs" to defeat the Islamic State. What is holding Obama back is not the lack of congressional authorization but his own stubborn unwillingness to employ the kind of force his military commander says is necessary to win.

So if there is no legal or warfighting reason for Obama to ask Congress for a new Authorization for Use of Military Force, or AUMF, why does he want one?

First, Obama is chafing at having to rely on the legal authorization for a war in Iraq that he repeatedly claimed to have "ended." Today, Obama is relying on the 2002 AUMF, the 9/11 authorization to go after al-Qaida and its affiliates and the 2002 authorization for Operation Iraqi Freedom. Last July, national security adviser Susan Rice said the 2002 AUMF for Iraq was no longer operative, telling House Speaker John Boehner in a letter, "With American combat troops having completed their withdrawal from Iraq... the Iraq AUMF is no longer used for any U.S. government activities." Now Obama is relying on that very AUMF to fight the Islamic State.

Awkward. Obama wants Congress to formally declare to end President George W. Bush's Iraq War by rescinding the 2002 authorization, while passing a new, more limited authorization to fight his new, more limited campaign against the Islamic State.

But the idea that the current campaign against the Islamic State is not a continu-

The idea that the current campaign against the Islamic State is not a continuation of the same war that Bush was fighting is a fantasy.

ation of the same war that Bush was fighting is a fantasy. The Islamic State is the same enemy that we fought (and defeated) during the 2007 "surge" in Iraq and is an offshoot of the same al-Qaida network we have been fighting since the 9/11 attacks.

Just because Obama withdrew U.S. combat forces from Iraq does not mean that war "ended." Quite the opposite, his withdrawal created the vacuum that reignited the dying embers of the Islamic State — restarting a battle that the United States had already won. If we could fight the Islamic State in 2007 under ground cover, we can fight it in 2015 and beyond. There is no reason to pass a new AUMF for the same conflict, just to give credence to the myth that Obama ended the Iraq War.

Second, and more important, Obama wants to tie the hands of his successor with a resolution that prevents him or her from deploying significant ground forces to defeat the Islamic State. He has asked Congress to explicitly state that the new AUMF "does not authorize the use of the United States Armed Forces in enduring offensive ground combat operations." Moreover, he wants Congress to declare that "the use of ground forces shall terminate" in three years "unless reauthorized." This makes Obama the first president in history to formally ask that Congress restrict his authority as commander in chief to fight a war.

If Obama chooses to reject the advice of his military commanders and refuses



to deploy U.S. forces in "offensive ground combat operations," that is his prerogative. But he and Congress have no right to bind the next commander in chief by placing unconstitutional limits on the mission and by imposing an artificial timetable.

Congress should refuse to endorse Obama's tepid strategy in Iraq or to impose it on the next president, who will inherit the mess created by Obama's Iraq withdrawal. As Gen. Jack Keane has pointed out, the threat of Islamic radicalism has increased fourfold on Obama's watch. Iraq and Syria are on fire, Yemen has collapsed, Libya is controlled by Islamic radicals and the Taliban are eagerly waiting on Obama to fulfill his promise to remove all U.S. forces from Afghanistan before he leaves office so they can take advantage of the power vacuum he leaves behind. The next commander in chief will need all the authority and flexibility possible to deal with these and other crises.

Some Republicans may still want to try to pass a more robust war authorization,

but that would be a mistake. It is not clear that such a resolution could pass. Between efforts of the libertarian right and the anti-war left, any AUMF Congress passes could be even worse than the one Obama put forward by the time it reaches his desk. And even if GOP leaders manage to pass a robust authorization, it is not clear Obama would sign it. His objective is to restrict presidential authority, not enhance it.

If the GOP wants to show anti-Islamic State resolve, the best way to do it is to say no to Obama's self-defeating war resolution. If Obama wants to tie his own hands in the fight against terror, Congress can do little to stop him. But Congress should not codify his disastrous withdrawal from Iraq or allow him to force his successor to fight the terrorists with one hand tied behind his or her back.

Marc A. Thiessen, a fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and former George W. Bush administration speechwriter, writes a weekly column for The Washington Post on foreign and domestic policy.

Vets housing bill not comprehensive enough to work

By JOHN DOWNING

Proposed legislation recently introduced in the Senate arrived with a name that is seemingly hard to argue against: the Homeless Veterans Welcome Home Act. It is a well-intentioned bill meant to provide support for veterans transitioning into permanent housing and to help them acquire furniture and other household items. Unfortunately, this bill is essentially window dressing that would simply leave many deserving veterans out in the cold.

On its face, the plan sounds great. It would establish a three-year pilot program to award grants to eligible organizations that would provide assistance to homeless veterans who qualify for housing provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs. A total of \$5 million for three years would be appropriated for the program. Organizations would receive a maximum grant of \$500,000 and eligible veterans as much as \$2,500.

The problem with this proposal is one we hear all too often at Soldier On, the nonprofit I lead that works with thousands of homeless veterans across the country and government entities to develop effective legislation and programs to help veterans.

The proposed Welcome Home Act tries to quantify and qualify the issue by requiring the VA to prioritize communities with the greatest need of homeless services and to seek fair geographic distribution when

awarding grants. The result would be a narrowing of the potential pool of veterans who can be assisted.

On any given night, roughly 50,000 veterans are homeless, according to a recent "point in time" survey by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Through our work with the VA's Supportive Services for Veteran Families Programs, we know that as many as 200,000 veterans need health, education and employment services, and rapid rehousing.

Compounding matters is the sharp increase in the number of veterans who experience post-traumatic stress disorder. Roughly 12 percent of Gulf War veterans suffer from PTSD and upward of 20 percent of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans do, according to the National Center for PTSD. We know there is a direct correlation between PTSD and severe physical and emotional health issues, substance abuse, unemployment, marriage difficulties and, yes, homelessness.

Perhaps most shocking — or maybe not — is that the proposed bill would create more bureaucracy. Any time taxpayer money goes to the VA, 5 percent to 10 percent is allocated to administrative overhead. We would cut waste and increase our success — and maximize the effect of funding for all veterans — if veterans received these grants directly through programs that already exist, such as Supportive Services for Veteran Families Programs.

Soldier On applauds California's Demo-

cratic senators, Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, for taking the initiative and introducing the bill to help homeless veterans. But furniture is not the first thing they need right now. Rather, it is incumbent upon Congress to enact a comprehensive support system for all veterans regardless of income or circumstance.

Such a system must offer a holistic approach if homeless veterans are to carry on healthy, productive lives in homes of their own. Essential components include mental health services, substance-abuse treatment, case management, peer support, medical and dental treatment, legal assistance, employment and educational services, and even transportation — one of the greatest barriers to veterans receiving treatment is the inability to get to doctor appointments. And the services must be delivered to veterans where they live.

This approach should also include our first-of-its-kind, limited-equity cooperative model for providing housing. Dozens of formerly homeless veterans live in the Gordon H. Mansfield Veterans Community in the Berkshires in Pittsfield, Mass. This village offers furnished one-bedroom townhomes in which veterans own an equity stake. Ownership — combined with support programs — allows these veterans to develop responsibility and leadership skills that can help them secure and retain employment and regain the dignity they deserve after sacrificing so much in service to our country.

The homes include furniture donated by BBL Hospitality, a New York-based hotel and hospitality services company. Our partnership with them is an excellent example of how the private sector can be engaged to avoid the inherent bureaucracy involved when new VA programs are created to serve one specific need. We don't need new programs — we need to make the existing ones work better and for more people.

Household furnishings are certainly a necessary component to any program designed to help homeless veterans, or those at risk of being homeless. But on its own, and as a new VA program, the Welcome Home Act would not have the necessary impact. Our nation's politicians — Democrats and Republicans alike — need to learn what really works when it comes to taking care of veterans who are living on the brink.

We can save time, money and lives by supporting full-service programs that already successfully address veterans' needs.

The lengthy list includes housing, PTSD and substance abuse counseling, transportation, health care and employment, all aimed squarely at those among us who were willing to do us a uniform.

John Downing is chief executive of Soldier On, a nonprofit provider of local services to veterans that includes immediate and long-term housing. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.



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NEW YORK REB-ARD

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Deals

Monday's transactions

BASEBALL
AMERICAN LEAGUE
CLEVELAND INDIANS — 1B Jason Giambi announced his retirement.

NEW YORK YANKEES — Agreed to terms with RHP Jeurys Burton on a minor league contract.

BASKETBALL
NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION
NEW YORK KNICKS — Waived F Amar'e Stoudemire.
NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION — Acquired G Ephyra Prince from Chicago for G Cappie Pondexter.

FOOTBALL
NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE
CAROLINA PANTHERS — Promoted Steve Wilks to assistant head coach.

HOCKEY
NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE
NHL — Suspended Florida D Dmitry Kulikov for clipping Dallas F Tyler Seguin during a Feb. 13 game.

COLUMBIUS BLUE JACKETS — Recalled F Joonas Vartiainen from Springfield (AHL).

NEW YORK ISLANDERS — Loaned D Michael Grabner to Bridgton (AHL).

OTTAWA SENATORS — Signed D Marc Methot to a four-year contract extension through the 2018-19 season.

SOCER
Major League Soccer
NEW YORK RED BULLS — Named Ibrahim Sekagye to the coaching staff.

COLLEGE
BIG TEN CONFERENCE — Suspended Penn State hockey F David Enenb on one game for butt-ending an opposing player in a Feb. 14 game against Michigan.

GEORGIA — Announced running backs coach Bryan McClendon will coach wide receivers and serve as passing game coordinator, named Thomas Green running backs coach.

SAN JOSE STATE — Named Adam Sorenson to the coaching staff.

SUSQUEHANNA — Named Matt Scott, defensive coordinator.

WISCONSIN — Named Ted Gilmore wide receivers coach.

NCAA Division I poll

MINNEAPOLIS — The top 20 teams in the nation in the Division I men's ice hockey poll, compiled by U.S. College Hockey Online, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Feb. 15 and previous rankings:

	Record	Score	Pts
1. North Dakota (35)	20-6-3	980	2
2. Minnesota State (10)	23-1-0	409	1
3. Boston U.	19-5-4	902	1
4. Michigan Tech (5)	24-1-1	856	5
5. Nebraska-Omaha	19-8-2	798	4
6. Miami (Ohio)	18-9-1	752	6
7. Michigan State	19-11-1	748	3
8. Bowling Green	17-8-6	617	8
9. North Dakota	20-5-1	613	9
10. Boston College	18-10-2	528	10
11. Quinnipiac	20-8-2	526	13
12. Providence	19-10-1	460	14
13. Yale	16-10-7	362	15
14. Cornell	19-10-1	340	16
15. Michigan	16-10-2	328	17
16. Minnesota	16-11-1	322	18
17. Vermont	16-9-3	227	NR
18. Minnesota	17-11-1	131	17
19. Merrimack	16-10-1	131	18
20. Cornell	16-11-1	131	19

Other receiving votes Northeastern 20, Penn State 27, Colgate 23, St. Cloud State 24, Michigan State 24, St. Lawrence 23, Western Michigan 3, Notre Dame 2, Mercyhurst 1.

Boxing

At Turning Stone Resort Casino, Verona, N.Y., Boxing: Quarterfinals: Heavyweights: Donovan Dennis vs. Steve Vucich, vacant CMAA vs. Ed Barrow, vacant EBU bantamweight title: Sammy Vazquez vs. Emmanuel Lartigue, Hireda vs. Lerroy Thomas.

At CONSO, Energy Center, Pittsburgh, Pa.: Heavyweights: Donovan Dennis vs. Steve Vucich, vacant CMAA vs. Ed Barrow, vacant EBU bantamweight title: Sammy Vazquez vs. Emmanuel Lartigue, Hireda vs. Lerroy Thomas.

At Monaca, Gennady Golovkin vs. Martin Murray, 12, for Goldenboy's World-IBO middleweight title; Willie Butler vs. 12, for World-IBO middleweight title; Haskins vs. Umar, 12, for WBA super flyweight title; Haskins vs. Umar, 12, for WBA super flyweight title; Haskins vs. Umar, 12, for WBA super flyweight title; Haskins vs. Umar, 12, for WBA super flyweight title.

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College basketball

AP Men's Top 25

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Feb. 15, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and last week's rankings:

	Record	Score	Pts
1. Kentucky (65)	25-0	1,625	1
2. Virginia	23-1	1,524	2
3. Oregon	23-0	1,487	3
4. Duke	22-1	1,449	4
5. Kansas	22-1	1,449	5
6. Villanova	23-2	1,302	6
7. Arizona	24-1	1,267	7
8. Kansas	24-1	1,267	8
9. Utah	20-4	1,051	11
10. North Carolina	20-4	1,038	10
11. N. Iowa	24-2	955	13
12. Louisville	20-4	952	12
13. Wichita St.	23-3	862	15
14. Iowa St.	18-6	761	14
15. North Carolina	21-7	698	12
16. Maryland	21-5	640	19
17. Oklahoma	21-5	640	19
18. Arkansas	20-5	476	24
19. Butler	18-7	364	16
20. SMU	21-1	299	25
21. Oklahoma St.	17-8	240	21
22. West Virginia	19-6	154	21
23. Ohio State	19-9	39	23
24. VCU	19-6	109	20

Others receiving votes: Texas 70, San Diego 54, Providence 50, Georgetown 28, Temple 28, Georgetown 23, Michigan St. 19, Texas A&M 18, Valparaiso 8, Indiana 7.

USA Today Men's Top 25

The top 25 teams in the USA Today college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Feb. 15, points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking:

	Record	Score	Pts
1. Kentucky (31)	25-0	759	1
2. Virginia	23-1	745	2
3. Georgia (1)	23-1	729	3
4. Wisconsin	23-2	708	4
5. Oregon (1)	23-0	690	5
6. Villanova	23-2	647	6
7. Duke	22-1	589	7
8. Kansas	21-1	566	9
9. North Carolina	22-2	550	10
10. Arizona	24-1	529	11
11. Northern Iowa	24-2	469	12
12. Louisville	20-4	469	12
13. Wichita State	23-3	436	14
14. Iowa State	18-6	314	19
15. Maryland	21-5	314	19
16. North Carolina	18-7	277	15
17. Oregon	23-0	259	16
18. Oklahoma	17-8	257	17
19. Butler	18-7	257	17
20. Baylor	18-7	155	16
21. West Virginia	19-6	119	20
22. Ohio State	19-9	21	21
23. Oklahoma State	17-8	24	24
24. San Diego State	20-6	61	25

Others receiving votes: UCU 51, Texas 32, Providence 22, Indiana 20, Michigan State 20, Dayton 17, Georgetown 16, San Diego 16, California 15, Valparaiso 8, Texas A&M 3, Iowa 2, U.S. State 1, Colorado State 1, Rhode Island 1.

Monday men's scores
EAST
Miami 89, Boston College 66, 20T
Cincinnati 70, Wake Forest 69
NJIT 89, Maine-Fort Kent 55
Villanova 90, Seton Hall 77
Duke 74, Kansas 61

SOUTH
Bethune-Cookman at NC A&T 56
Coastal Carolina 65, Radford 59
ETSU 87, Tennessee Tech 79
Georgia Tech 63, Clemson 52
Clemson 63, Morgan St. 69
McNeese St. 74, SE Louisiana 69
Eastern Shore 61, Maryland 55
NC Central 73, Florida A&M 46
Arkansas 85, Cent. Arkansas 70
Prairie View 55, Grambling St. 44
Southern U. 68, MSU 56
Arkansas 85, Springfield Hill 55
Texas Southern 71, Jackson St. 70, UT Southern 49, Oklahoma 49
Baylor (NO) 75, Tougaloo 64
Xavier 58, Creighton 55

MIDWEST
Carleton St., Concordia (Mo.) 49
Gustavus 77, Bethel 66
Hawthorne 86, Augsburg 75
St. John's (Minn.) 74, Macalester 58
St. Thomas (Minn.) 66, St. Olaf 49

SOUTHWEST
Lamar 72, Houston Baptist 66
Sam Houston St. 71, Abilene Christian 49
Stephen F. Austin 96, Incarnate Word 7
Texas A&M-CM 58, New Orleans 53

AP Men's Top 25 schedule
Wednesday's games
No. 4. Duke vs. No. 15 North Carolina
No. 11. Northern Iowa at Loyola of Chicago
No. 12. Louisville at Syracuse
No. 14. Iowa State at No. 22 Oklahoma State
No. 18. Arkansas vs. Missouri
No. 3. Gonzaga at Pacific
No. 7. Arizona vs. Southern Cal
No. 16. Maryland vs. Nebraska
No. 21. SMU vs. Temple

AP Women's Top 25

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' women's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Feb. 15, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and last week's rankings:

	Record	Score	Pts
1. UConn (35)	24-1	875	2
2. South Carolina	24-1	875	2
3. Baylor	24-1	809	3
4. Princeton	22-2	719	4
6. Tennessee	22-2	712	6
7. Oregon St.	22-2	712	6
8. Louisville	23-2	624	9
9. Florida St.	23-2	624	9
10. Duke	19-6	527	10
11. North Carolina	22-2	468	12
12. Arizona St.	22-2	468	12
13. Mississippi St.	24-4	421	13
14. Texas A&M	19-6	361	14
15. Princeton	22-2	290	15
16. North Carolina	20-6	344	17
17. Stanford	19-7	296	18
18. Rutgers	20-6	274	18
19. Chattanooga	20-2	209	19
20. Nebraska	18-7	122	22
21. Florida Gulf Coast	22-2	62	23
22. James Madison	22-2	62	23
23. George Washington	22-3	59	24
24. Syracuse	21-3	58	24

Others receiving votes: Oklahoma 38, Connecticut 20, South Carolina 19, Northwestern 18, Gonzaga 16, DePaul 15, Green Bay 14, Wake Forest 11, LSU 9, Oklahoma St. 8, Washington 5, Texas Tech 4, Texas A&M 3, Pittsburgh 1, Quinnipiac 1, W. Kentucky 1, Wichita St. 1.

USA Today Women's Top 25

The top 25 teams in the USA Today women's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Feb. 15, points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking:

	Record	Score	Pts
1. UConn (32)	24-1	745	1
2. South Carolina	22-1	757	2
3. Baylor	22-2	685	3
4. Notre Dame	22-1	685	4
5. Maryland	22-2	603	4
6. Florida State	22-2	601	8
7. Oregon State	22-1	533	9
8. Duke	19-6	400	12
9. Oklahoma State	18-6	400	12
10. Oregon	19-6	397	13
11. North Carolina	19-6	397	13
12. Washington State	18-6	333	14
13. Texas A&M	18-6	333	14
14. Princeton	20-1	229	20
15. Rutgers	20-1	229	20
16. Nebraska	17-6	148	18
17. George Washington	17-6	148	18
18. Syracuse	17-7	143	25
19. Texas	15-7	103	16
20. Florida St.	15-7	103	16
21. South Carolina	19-4	64	21

Others receiving votes: James Madison 51, Georgia 37, Chattanooga 28, DePaul 28, California 28, Wake Forest 21, Rock 10, Florida Gulf Coast 10, North Carolina 9, Eastern Shore 9, Washington 7, Washington 6, St. John's 5, Western Kentucky 4.

Monday women's scores
EAST
Boston College 64, NC State 59, OT
Bryant 63, Fairfield Dickinson 61
Robert Morris 57, LIU Brooklyn 46
Cleveland State 66, Shadyside 60
St. Francis (NY) 67, Wagner 55

SOUTH
Chattanooga 66, North Carolina 55
Converse 65, Barton 61
Coppin 58, Delaware 62
ETSU 84, UNC Asheville 62
Florida A&M 65, NC Central 58
Florida A&M 54, Samford 54
Hampton 78, Morgan St. 41
Texas Southern 61, Eastern Shore 55
Mercer 63, Wofford 51
Arkansas 85, Cent. Arkansas 70
Prairie View 55, Grambling St. 44
Southern U. 68, MSU 56
Arkansas 85, Springfield Hill 55
Texas Southern 71, Jackson St. 70, UT Southern 49, Oklahoma 49
Baylor (NO) 75, Tougaloo 64
Xavier 58, Creighton 55

MIDWEST
Carleton St., Concordia (Mo.) 49
Gustavus 77, Bethel 66
Hawthorne 86, Augsburg 75
St. John's (Minn.) 74, Macalester 58
St. Thomas (Minn.) 66, St. Olaf 49

SOUTHWEST
Lamar 72, Houston Baptist 66
Sam Houston St. 71, Abilene Christian 49
Stephen F. Austin 96, Incarnate Word 7
Texas A&M-CM 58, New Orleans 53

AP Women's Top 25 schedule
Wednesday's games
No. 3. Baylor at Texas Tech
No. 18. Stanford at California
No. 21. Nebraska at Northwestern
No. 16. North Carolina at Wake Forest
Thursday's games
No. 4. Notre Dame at Georgia Tech
No. 2. South Carolina at Kansas
No. 8. Tennessee vs. Alabama
No. 8. Louisville at Virginia Tech
No. 11. Kentucky vs. No. 15 Texas A&M
No. 12. North Carolina at Colorado
No. 22. Florida Gulf Coast at Kennesaw State
No. 23. James Madison at UNC Wilmington
No. 25. Syracuse vs. Boston College
Friday's games
No. 7. Arizona at Colorado
No. 10. North Carolina at UCLA
No. 16. Princeton vs. Dartmouth

Tennis

Delray Beach Open

Monday
At Delray Beach Stadium & Tennis Center
Men's Singles
Purse: \$549,200 (WT250)
Surface: Hard-Indoor

Singles
Dennis Kudus, United States, def. Lukas Lacko, Slovakia, 6-3, 6-4.

Alexander Dolgopriy, Ukraine, def. Teymuraz Gabashvili, Russia, 7-6 (4), 6-3.

Karlov Karlov, 6-3, 6-2, def. Dustin Brown, Germany, 6-3, 6-7 (3), 6-2.

First Round
Raven Klauner, South Africa, and Leander Paes (2), India, def. Malek Zekri, Tunisia, and Mariniko Matosevic, Australia, 7-5, 6-0.

Eric Butorac and Rajeev Ram, United States, def. Mikhail Kukushkin, Kazakhstan, and Yen-Hsun Lu, Taiwan, 7-5, 4-6, 10-8.

Bernard Tomic, Australia, and Viktor Troicki, Serbia, def. Sam Groth and Chris Truitt, (4), Australia, 6-7 (10), 6-2, 10-7.

Rio Open
Monday
At Jockey Club Brasileiro
Men's Singles
Purse: \$500,000 (WT500)
Surface: Clay-Outdoor

Singles
Andreas Haddad, Romania, Austria, def. Albert Ramos-Vinolas, Spain, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Jarkko Nieminen, Finland, def. Marco Cecchinato, Italy, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Diego Schwartzman, Argentina

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Quantrill out to add to résumé

Stanford ace bulks up repertoire for 2nd season

By JANIE MCCAULEY
The Associated Press

STANFORD, Calif. — The way Cal Quantrill tells it, his big league father forgot him in the clubhouse one day during spring training 10 years ago, and the boy had to ask Randy Johnson to go find dad.

The pitcher was on his way out of the New York Yankees' Florida complex when he had to turn around.

"Well, he'd gone home," Cal Quantrill recalled. "He's gone. My mom's gone. Randy Johnson is my dad's locker mate. I remember walking up to him — I'm 4½ feet tall ... and he's 6-11, whatever he was — I go, 'Mr. Johnson, I was wondering if you could call my dad?'"

Paul Quantrill doesn't doubt this happened but also maintains his son became so engrossed in baseball he would wander off, as Cal did with John Olerud at an All-Star Game one year.

"Cal Ripken, myself and Kirby Puckett looked all over for him," the elder Quantrill said. "He would blame me, but he took off with John Olerud and went down to the batting cage. Certainly I get the blame because I'm the dad."

Those experiences are a big part of the reason Cal Quantrill is so unfazed today by the dozens of scouts in the stands hanging on his every pitch, radar guns at the ready.

The college sophomore went with a big personality to match his big right arm started Stanford's season opener Friday against Indiana. He allowed just one run on six hits and struck out six before leaving with the score tied 1-1 in the sixth inning. Stanford lost 4-2.

The Cardinal ace and projected first-round draft pick in 2016 is already on several preseason All-American lists.

Scouts rave about Quantrill's competitive drive along with his athleticism.

Paul Quantrill pitched 14 major league seasons with seven teams, including six with Toronto and three with Boston. He spent two more with the Yankees.

Yes, it was an awfully cool way to grow up for his son, surrounded by some of baseball's biggest stars and future Hall of Famers. Newly elected Randy Johnson will be enshrined in Cooperstown this summer.



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

Stanford sophomore pitcher Cal Quantrill is a projected first-round draft pick in 2016 after earning Pac-12 Freshman of the Year honors in 2014.

Of the 81 home games, Cal would go to about 60.

"Minimum," he said. "I'd go on the road sometimes with dad. Lived in the clubhouse. I was raised in that clubhouse. I still consider some of my favorite moments in the Blue Jays clubhouse and Carlos Delgado would go toss me batting practice as a 7-year-old. Think about that."

Now, as he walks across Stanford's campus of star athletes and some of the smartest people in all fields, he puts his task in perspective, not taking his position or prospects too seriously.

He still has the chore of keeping the pitching mound in shape in his home ballpark, Sunken Diamond. That's part of coach Mark Marquess' program that his players help serve as groundskeepers.

"I get to sit on the bench for six days and go out and try to do good once," Quantrill cracked during a recent sit-down in the stadium. "I would consider it an honor that I got the main mound, but I am the lowest on the totem pole on the main mound."

The Pac-12 Freshman of the Year last season, Quantrill played a key role in

the team's surprising run to the NCAA Super Regionals, where Stanford lost to eventual College World Series champion Vanderbilt.

Quantrill considers the biggest changes in his pitching to be the non-physical tweaks, even if he is throwing a little harder and has added a couple of pitches to his repertoire — a slider and a curveball to go with his go-to fastball and changeup.

From the tiny town of Port Hope, Ontario, outside Toronto, Quantrill loved hockey. He stopped playing as a high school junior to avoid getting hurt for his better sport, baseball.

He has taken full loads at Stanford since he arrived, and is about a quarter ahead. He's done with his engineering, science and math requirements — all part of the plan to put him close to graduation before he is drafted next year.

Something kept telling Quantrill to go to college at Stanford before turning pro.

"The draft is an honor, but it's just a start," Quantrill said. "I play this sport because I love it. If it works out you can make a bunch of money doing it, that's awesome. That's a bonus, that's cool."

Notes

Flat-seam ball brings upswing

By ERIC OLSON
The Associated Press

UCLA hit just eight home runs in 2014, and it took until the 13th game for the Bruins to get their first. Three games into this season, they've hit five.

UCLA was not alone in drawing on a power surge that jolted college baseball during the season's opening weekend. Weather and pitching, of course, are important variables, but the new flat-seam ball appears to be doing what was intended in a sport starved for offense.

Southeastern Conference teams accounted for 34 homers in 43 games compared with 18 in the first 43 games last year. Florida and Georgia each hit six in three games, with Gators cleanup man Harrison Bader's three homers surpassing his total of two in 44 games last season.

The Atlantic Coast Conference had 27 homers on the opening weekend, compared with 11 last year, and the Pac-12 had 20, compared with 10 in 2014.

The increases did not occur in the Big 12 and Big Ten. The Big 12, with 17 homers, and the Big Ten, with 14, each had one fewer than it did the first weekend of 2014.

Scoring was up by more than a run a game, according to D1Baseball.com. Games averaged 11.52 runs this past weekend, compared with 10.4 on opening weekend last year.

The ball used this season is more like the one used at the professional level. Researchers found that the flat-seam ball could travel as much as 20 feet farther than the previous raised-seam ball.

A look around the nation:

Champs win 2 of 3: Defending national champion and top-ranked Vanderbilt won its series against Santa Barbara, with Ro Coleman's bases-loaded infield grounder giving the Commodores a 6-5, 10-inning victory in the finale. All-American Carson Fulmer and freshman reliever Jordan Sheffield earned wins. Sheffield worked the last 3½ innings of the series in temperatures that dropped into the 20s in Nashville.

Mighty Matueals: Projected high first-round draft pick Michael Matueals struck out eight in six shutout innings in Duke's 7-1 road win over California. The 6-foot-7, 220-pounder didn't pitch last summer because of injury. He struck out the first four Cal batters.

Indiana wins rematch: It won't make up for the stinging NCAA tournament loss to Stanford, but Indiana went on the road and won two of three against the Cardinal. The teams met three times in the Bloomington (Indiana) Regional last year, and Stanford won the final on a walk-off home run. It was a promising weekend for the Hoosiers, who lost their top three hitters and have a new coach in Chris Lemonis. Nick Ramos batted .429, Casey Rodriguez drove in four runs and Ryan Halstead had two saves after missing most of last season with a torn ACL.

The guy's a Bulldog: Mississippi State's Jacob Robson reached base in 16 of his first 17 plate appearances against Cincinnati and Miami (Ohio) and has a .765 on-base percentage through four games.

Grand opening: Chad De La Guerra, the 2014 Western Athletic Conference batting champion, led Grand Canyon to a 3-0 start with three home runs and 12 RBIs. His greatest output came Sunday in a 30-7 win over Bradley. He went 5-for-6 with two homers, nine RBIs and five runs scored.

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NHL



KATHY KORMICER/AP

Rangers goalie Cam Talbot, second from right, and right wing Martin St. Louis, right, defend against Islanders center John Tavares (91) and left wing Josh Bailey, back, during Monday's game in Uniondale, N.Y. The Rangers scored three goals in the third period to edge the Islanders 6-5.

Rangers rally past Islanders

By IRA PODELL

The Associated Press

UNIONDALE, N.Y. — Kevin Klein scored with 4:32 left, and the New York Rangers overcame a pair of two-goal deficits and netted three third-period goals to stun the New York Islanders 6-5 on Monday night.

After falling behind 11 seconds in, the Rangers completed their game-long, uphill fight and beat the Islanders for the first time in four tries this season. They trail the Metropolitan Division-leading Islanders by two points and have two games in hand.

Defenseman Ryan McDonagh

had the first two-goal game of his career, and Chris Kreider, Derek Stepan and Martin St. Louis also scored for the Rangers, who completed a 4-0 road trip.

Stepan and St. Louis scored 1:37 apart in the third to tie it. Cam Talbot made 38 saves and improved to 5-1-1 while filling in for injured goalie Henrik Lundqvist.

The Islanders appeared headed for their fifth straight win, but they couldn't lead a 3-1 lead in the second period or a 5-3 edge in the third.

Ryan Strome scored twice, and John Tavares, Frans Nielsen and Johnny Boychuk had goals for the

Islanders, who dropped to 18-3 against Metropolitan opponents and 11-1 at home.

They had outscored the Rangers 13-4 in three previous wins this season. The teams will meet once more in the regular season. Jaroslav Halak stopped 36 shots but struggled in his attempt to tie the Islanders' record for wins in a season.

Tavares scored 11 seconds in, Nielsen added a first-period goal, and Boychuk scored in the second for the Islanders.

Klein won it with a shot from the right circle after an Islanders turnover in the neutral zone.

Roundup

Late OT goal boosts Flames

The Associated Press

CALGARY, Alberta — TJ Brodie scored with 2 seconds left in overtime, and Calgary rallied from a three-goal deficit to beat Boston 4-3.

As Brodie cut down the wing, he sent the puck toward the net. It deflected off a Bruins stick, fluttered high in the air and over goalie Tuukka Rask. The buzzer sounded and, after a brief period of uncertainty, video review confirmed the goal.

Boston led 3-1 after 40 minutes. The victory marked the NHL's best 10th time the Flames have come back to win when trailing after two periods (10-16-1). Anaheim is second with seven.

Jiri Hudler had two goals and David Jones also scored for Calgary, which has won six of eight.

Brad Marchand, Zdeno Chára and Torey Krug scored for the Bruins, who are 0-3-1 in their last four.

Kings 3, Lightning 2: Jordan Nolan scored the go-ahead goal early in the third period to help Los Angeles defeat visiting Tampa Bay for its fifth straight win.

Jeff Carter added a goal in the third, Anze Kopitar scored the tying goal in the second and Jonathan Quick stopped 21 shots for the Kings.

Canadians 2, Red Wings 0: Tomas Plekanec snapped a scoreless tie with 2:30 remaining and Carey Price made 25 saves in his fifth shutout of the season, propelling Montreal past host Detroit. Plekanec's slap shot got past Jimmy Howard for his 17th goal of the season. Max Pacioretty added an empty-netter in the closing seconds with an assist from Plekanec.

Avanche 5, Coyotes 2: Cody McLeod and Matt Duchene scored 9 seconds apart early in the first period, Jarome Iginla had two assists and host Colorado

beat slumping Arizona. **Hurricanes 6, Senators 3:** Andrei Nestrasil had a goal and two assists in Carolina's victory over host Ottawa.

Nathan Gerbe, Jeff Skinner, Jay McClement, Michal Jordan and Chris Terry also scored for the Hurricanes.

Canucks 3, Wild 2: Alex Biega scored the winning goal in his first NHL game to help Vancouver defeat visiting Minnesota.

Henrik Sedin had a goal and an assist, and Bo Horvat also scored for the Canucks. Eddie Lack made 20 saves in the win.

Jets 5, Oilers 4 (SO): Blake Wheeler scored the only goal in a shootout to lift host Winnipeg over Edmonton.

Wheeler scored on the first shot of the tiebreaker, causing goalie Viktor Fasth to stretch out and injure himself. He left the ice and was replaced by Richard Bachman.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Montreal	56	37	15	4	78	150	141
Tampa Bay	59	35	18	6	76	191	159
Detroit	55	34	16	5	73	160	141
Boston	56	28	20	8	64	147	145
Florida	55	24	24	10	60	135	153
Ottawa	55	22	23	10	55	135	158
Toronto	57	23	29	5	51	160	175
Buffalo	56	16	37	3	34	104	193

Metropolitan Division

N.Y. Rangers	57	37	19	1	75	164	162
Washington	57	30	16	10	70	168	145
Pittsburgh	56	32	15	9	73	163	141
Washington	57	30	16	10	70	168	145
Philadelphia	56	24	22	10	58	151	162
Columbus	54	24	27	3	42	135	166
New Jersey	56	21	26	9	51	124	154
Carolina	55	20	28	7	42	126	150

Western Conference

Central Division	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Nashville	56	38	12	6	82	170	131
St. Louis	56	37	15	4	78	178	137
Chicago	57	25	18	14	64	177	131
Winnipeg	59	30	19	10	70	165	157
Minnesota	56	28	21	7	63	155	152
Dallas	56	26	22	8	60	175	179
Colorado	57	24	22	11	59	149	161

Pacific Division

Anaheim	57	35	15	7	77	169	160
Vancouver	57	32	22	3	67	166	147
San Jose	58	29	21	8	66	164	165
Los Angeles	57	28	22	7	63	160	164
Arizona	58	20	31	7	47	131	194
Edmonton	54	24	27	3	42	135	166

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Monday's games

Winnipeg 5, Edmonton 4, SO
N.Y. Rangers 6, N.Y. Islanders 5
Carolina 6, Ottawa 3
Montreal 2, Detroit 1
Colorado 5, Arizona 2
Calgary 4, Boston 3, OT
Vancouver 5, Minnesota 2
Los Angeles 3, Tampa Bay 2

Tuesday's games

Columbus at Philadelphia
Washington at Pittsburgh
N.Y. Islanders at Carolina
Buffalo at New Jersey
Florida at Atlanta
Dallas at St. Louis
San Jose at Nashville

Wednesday's games

Montreal at Ottawa
Detroit at Chicago
Minnesota at Calgary
Boston at Tampa Bay
Boston at Edmonton
Tampa Bay at Anaheim

Thursday's games

Nashville at N.Y. Islanders
N.Y. Rangers at Philadelphia
Columbus at Pittsburgh
Winnipeg at Washington
Florida at Montreal
San Jose at Dallas

Friday's games

Tampa Bay at Los Angeles
First Period—1, Tampa Bay, Nestorov 1 (Patrik, 12:11).

Second Period—1, Tampa Bay, Kopitar 12 (Lewis, McNabb), 7:04.

Third Period—3, Los Angeles, Nolan 4 (King, Shor), 3:36; 4, Los Angeles, Carter (Coughtry, King), 13:33; 5, Tampa Bay, Johnson 21 (Kucherov, Hedman), 15:23.

Shots on Goal—Tampa Bay 9-9-5-23.

Power-play opportunities—Tampa Bay 0-0-1-1.

Goals—Tampa Bay, Vasilevsky 4-21 (28 shots-25 saves). Los Angeles, Quick 12-20 (23-21).

A-18,230 (18,118), T-21:7.

Canadiens 2, Red Wings 0

Montreal 0-0-2-2
Detroit 0-0-0-0

First Period—1, Montreal, Plekanec 17 (Weise, Pacioretty), 17:30; 2, Montreal, Pacioretty 26 (Plekanec, Subban), 19:50 (E-18,230, 18,118), T-21:7.

Shots on Goal—Montreal 7-4-8-29.

Power-play opportunities—Montreal 0-1, Detroit 0 of 2.

Goals—Montreal, Price 32-11-2 (25 shots-20 saves). Detroit, Howard 16-8-8 (28-26).

A-20,027 (20,027), T-2:35.

Canucks 3, Wild 2

Minnesota 5-1-0-1-2
Vancouver 1-0-1-2-3

First Period—1, Minnesota, Niederreiter 15 (McLeod, Brodie), 8:25.

Second Period—2, Vancouver, H.Sedin 10 (Kreider, Miller), 6:25; 10, N.Y. Rangers, Tapan 27, 11:2, N.Y. Islanders, Nielsen 11 (Hammond, Grabosky), 14:35.

Third Period—3, Vancouver, Horvat 7 (Hansen, Shabla), 1:33; 13, Vancouver, Biega 1 (H.Sedin, Higgins), 1:55; 5, Minnesota, Niederreiter 18 (Schneider), 13:35.

Shots on Goal—Minnesota 7-6-9-22.

Power-play opportunities—Montreal 0 of 1, Detroit 0 of 2.

Goals—Montreal, Price 32-11-2 (25 shots-20 saves). Detroit, Howard 16-8-8 (28-26).

A-20,027 (20,027), T-2:35.

Canucks 3, Wild 2

Minnesota 5-1-0-1-2
Vancouver 1-0-1-2-3

First Period—1, Minnesota, Niederreiter 15 (McLeod, Brodie), 8:25.

Second Period—2, Vancouver, H.Sedin 10 (Kreider, Miller), 6:25; 10, N.Y. Rangers, Tapan 27, 11:2, N.Y. Islanders, Nielsen 11 (Hammond, Grabosky), 14:35.

Third Period—3, Vancouver, Horvat 7 (Hansen, Shabla), 1:33; 13, Vancouver, Biega 1 (H.Sedin, Higgins), 1:55; 5, Minnesota, Niederreiter 18 (Schneider), 13:35.

Shots on Goal—Minnesota 7-6-9-22.

Power-play opportunities—Montreal 0 of 1, Detroit 0 of 2.

Goals—Montreal, Price 32-11-2 (25 shots-20 saves). Detroit, Howard 16-8-8 (28-26).

A-20,027 (20,027), T-2:35.

Canucks 3, Wild 2

Minnesota 5-1-0-1-2
Vancouver 1-0-1-2-3

First Period—1, Minnesota, Niederreiter 15 (McLeod, Brodie), 8:25.

Second Period—2, Vancouver, H.Sedin 10 (Kreider, Miller), 6:25; 10, N.Y. Rangers, Tapan 27, 11:2, N.Y. Islanders, Nielsen 11 (Hammond, Grabosky), 14:35.

Third Period—3, Vancouver, Horvat 7 (Hansen, Shabla), 1:33; 13, Vancouver, Biega 1 (H.Sedin, Higgins), 1:55; 5, Minnesota, Niederreiter 18 (Schneider), 13:35.

Shots on Goal—Minnesota 7-6-9-22.

Power-play opportunities—Montreal 0 of 1, Detroit 0 of 2.

Goals—Montreal, Price 32-11-2 (25 shots-20 saves). Detroit, Howard 16-8-8 (28-26).

A-20,027 (20,027), T-2:35.

Flames 4, Bruins 3 (OT)

Boston 2-1-0-3-4

First Period—1, Boston, McLeod 16 (Bergeron), 6:48 (sh); 2, Boston, Chára 4 (Hamilton, Pastnak), 11:27.

Second Period—3, Boston, Krug 11 (R.Smith, Miller), 5:50; 4, Calgary, Jones 11 (Backlund, Girard), 14:35.

Third Period—5—Calgary, Hudler 17 (Monahan, Byron), 3:22; 6, Calgary, Hudler 18 (Girard, Gaudreau), 14:35 (pp).

Overtime—7, Calgary, Brodie 9 (Girard, Monahan), 4:58.

Shots on Goal—Boston 8-9-7-3—27.

Calgary 7-8-10-2-27.

Power-play opportunities—Boston 0 of 2; Calgary 1 of 2.

Goals—Boston, Rask 23-15-8 (27 shots-23 saves). Calgary, Ramo (11-8), Miller 19-16-2 (0-50 second, 19-16).

A-19,289 (19,289), T-2:43.

Avanche 5, Coyotes 2

Arizona 1-0-1-2-3

Colorado 3-2-0-5

First Period—1, Colorado, McLeod 5 (Petrav, Hejda), 2:54; 2, Colorado, Duchene 15 (Girgin, Redmond), 3:03; 3, Arizona, Kemm 17 (Lessio, Chichura), 9:51; 4, Colorado, Holden 5 (Redmond, Duchene), 14:58 (pp).

Second Period—1, Colorado, Barrie 7 (Girgin, Talbot), 7:28; 6, Colorado, Landeskog (O'Leary), 12:12.

Third Period—7, Arizona, Arcobello 10 (Storck, Martin), 12:11.

Shots on Goal—Arizona 5-0-12—17.

Colorado 15-12-34—47.

Goals—Arizona, McKenna 0-1-0 (34 shots-29 saves). Colorado, Varlamov 16-14-7 (5-4), Berra (0-30 third, 12-11).

A-14,132 (18,007), T-22:11.

Jets 5, Oilers 4 (SO)

Edmonton 2-0-2-4

Winnipeg 2-1-2-0-4

Winnipeg won shootout 1-0

First Period—1, Winnipeg, Lett 22 (Enstrom, Wheeler), 7:46 (pp); 2, Edmonton, Yakupov 7 (D.Roy, Ference), 13:49; 3, Edmonton, Lander 4 (Eberle, Schultz), 15:19 (pp).

Second Period—4, Winnipeg, Lett 23 (Charco), 8:15.

Third Period—5, Edmonton, Nugent-Hinkins 15 (Petrucci, Gaudreau), 1:33; 6, Winnipeg, Myers 5 (Enstrom, Thorburn), 3:30; 7, Edmonton, Yakupov 8 (Pouliot, Pasken), 15:14 (pp).

Shots on Goal—Winnipeg 15-5-56.

Shootout—Edmonton 0 (Yakupov, N.G., D.Roy, N.G., Eberle, N.G.)

Winnipeg 1 (Wheeler, C.N.G., Ladd, N.G.).

Shots on Goal—Edmonton 6-7-22.

Winnipeg 16-13-34-46.

Power-play opportunities—Edmonton 2 of 4; Winnipeg 1 of 3.

Goals—Edmonton, Fasth 6-15-3 (46 shots-42 saves). Sachman (0-00 over time, 0-0).

Winnipeg, Hutchinson 17-7-3 (2-18).

A-15,016 (15,004), T-2:46.

Hurricanes 6, Senators 3

Carolina 1-3-2-6

Ottawa 1-2-0-3

First Period—1, Carolina, Nestrasil 4 (Gerbe), 6:48; 2, Ottawa, Connor 6 (Kearse, Stone, Prince), 18:15.

Second Period—3, Carolina, Skinner 13 (Nash, Secker), 8:06 (pp); 4, Ottawa, Hoffman 20 (Zibanejad, Karlsson), 10:52.

Third Period—3, Carolina, Secker 6 (Nestrasil, Jordan), 13:26; 6, Ottawa, Cebeci 5 (Zibanejad, Karlsson), 14:35.

Shots on Goal—Carolina, McLeod 3 (Hansen, Dwyer), 19:06.

Third Period—8, Carolina, Jordan 1 (Girard, Faulk), 22:33 (pp).

Terry 7 (Hainsey, Nestrasil), 9:49 (pp).

Shots on Goal—Carolina 12-19-35—36.

Ottawa 10-12-32—36.

Power-play opportunities—Carolina 3 of 4; Ottawa 0 of 3.

Goals—Carolina, Ward 14-19-14 (32 shots-29 saves). Ottawa, Letner 9-12-3 (31-27), Hamilton (19:06 second, 5-3).

A-16,562 (19,153), T-2:29.

Rangers 6, Islanders 5

N.Y. Rangers 1-2-3-6

N.Y. Islanders 2-2-1-5

First Period—1, N.Y. Islanders, Tapan 27, 11:2, N.Y. Islanders, Nielsen 11 (Hammond, Grabosky), 14:35.

Second Period—4, N.Y. Islanders, Brodie 17 (Monahan, Byron), 3:22; 6, Calgary, Hudler 18 (Girard, Gaudreau), 14:35 (pp).

Third Period—3, N.Y. Islanders, Tapan 27, 11:2, N.Y. Islanders, Nielsen 11 (Hammond, Grabosky), 14:35.

Shots on Goal—N.Y. Islanders 11-13-18—42.

N.Y. Islanders 22-15-43—43.

Goals—N.Y. Islanders, Tapan 27 (43 shots-39 saves). N.Y. Islanders, Hal

NHL

Salary cap poses obstacle to dynasties

BY HELENE ELLIOTT
Los Angeles Times

Winning the Stanley Cup might be the most demanding task in professional sports, a glorious and grueling test played out over eight months and more than 100 games.

Only when the ice has melted do teams disclose who was hobbling on a wounded knee or who was tethered to an IV between games. Lifting the Cup with aching arms above your bruised shoulders makes it all worthwhile.

Winning the Cup twice in a row, though, is even tougher.

The NHL — once a haven for dynasties built by Montreal, Edmonton and the New York Islanders — hasn't had a repeat champion since the Detroit Red Wings in 1997 and '98. Since then, the NBA (Bulls, Lakers and Miami Heat), NFL (Denver and New England) and Major League Baseball (the New York Yankees) have all had repeat winners.

The Kings have come closest by winning in 2012, reaching the Western Conference finals in 2013 and reclaiming the Cup last spring, but to repeat this season, they'll first have to climb into a playoff spot.

"I think dynasties are over. There's no doubt about it," said Jimmy Devellano, senior vice president of the Red Wings. And he should know. His name is on the Cup as a scout and assistant general manager for the first three of the Islanders' four straight titles in the 1980s, and four more times as a Detroit executive.

"It's a credit to L.A. and Chicago that in the last five years they both won two, and Boston snuck in there for one," Devellano said. "I guess it could happen for L.A., but it's been a tough, tough year. It doesn't take much to take you off your game."

What has taken the Kings off their game?

Start with the likelihood of fatigue. They've played 64 playoff games the last three seasons, the most by any NHL team in a three-season span. Dallas played 63 playoff games from 1997-98 through 1999-2000, as did Detroit from 2006-07 through 2008-09.

"It's a lot of games," said Luc Robitaille, the Kings' president of business operations and a Cup champion with Detroit in 2002.



WALLY SKALJE, LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS

Los Angeles captain Dustin Brown holds the Stanley Cup after the Kings beat the New York Rangers 3-2 in double overtime of Game 5 of the Stanley Cup Finals on June 13 in Los Angeles. The victory clinched the Kings' second Stanley Cup in three years.

"And you look at last year, we had a lot of guys that played in the Olympics. It takes a toll on a player over time."

Rob Blake, the Kings' assistant general manager, also knows the obstacles facing would-be repeat winners. He triumphed in 2001 with the Colorado Avalanche, which lost to Detroit in Game 7 of the West finals the following season.

"Difficult because you become a target. Difficult because of the short summer,"

Blake said. "Lots of difficulties, but I think the main thing is being focused to do it again, not being content with one and hoping they do it again."

Robitaille said Cup winners' short summer cuts into off-season conditioning and can lead to slow starts the following season.

"When you don't win the Cup, you have 10 weeks or 12 weeks to work out. When you win the Cup, you might have only four

or five weeks to work out, and your whole program changes," he said. "A lot of times, teams that won the Cup have problems just starting the season... I don't believe it's an excuse, but the games in October, it's a reality, mentally, as a human being, you don't think quite the same as when those games are do-or-die."

But the biggest obstacle to repeating is the NHL's salary cap, adopted after a labor dispute that led Commissioner Gary Bettman to cancel the 2004-05 season. Success leads players to request raises, but teams have only so much cap space. The Canadiens, Islanders and Oilers never had that restraint.

The cap-squeezed Chicago Blackhawks shed about a dozen players from their 2010 Cup team; they replenished their depth and won again in 2013.

The Kings, facing a similar squeeze last summer, let defenseman Willie Mitchell leave as a free agent. Their defense — which has lost Slava Voynov to a suspension while he faces a felony domestic violence charge — has been a patchwork of inconsistency.

Devellano said the Red Wings wanted to keep Nicklas Lidstrom, Pavel Datsyuk and Henrik Zetterberg in 2009, but to do that, they had to let Marian Hossa go. Hossa signed with the Blackhawks and helped them to two Cup triumphs.

The Islanders didn't have to make those kinds of choices.

"Bill Torrey was able to go to the players and pay them what were top salaries at the time," Devellano said of the Islanders' general manager. "We were able to keep them. With all that playoff revenue, that's how we were able to do it."

"It's not like the Islander and Edmonton days, where you could hoard a Bryan Trottier, a Denis Potvin and a Mike Bossy, or Edmonton with Mark Messier, Wayne Gretzky and Paul Coffey. It's hard to have three stars on your team with the way the salary cap is."

One mistake can clog a team's cap space and hamper long-term planning. Exhibit A: Kings General Manager Dean Lombardi's decision last summer not to buy out fading center Mike Richards and his \$5.75-million cap hit.

"You really have to be a good manager of the cap," Devellano said. "And sometimes you've got to make unpopular and tough decisions because if you overcommit to somebody in money and in term, it can really come back to bite you in the rear end."

Yet, the cap isn't entirely bad. "If it's done anything," Devellano said, "it certainly has created terrific parity." That's if you prefer parity to dynasties.

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X EXCHANGE **NEX**

COLLEGE BASKETBALL



RAYMOND THOMPSON/AP

West Virginia guard Juwan Staten drives past Kansas guard Kelly Oubre Jr. to score the winning basket in the final seconds on Monday in Morgantown, W.Va.

Roundup

West Virginia upsets Kansas on late shot

The Associated Press

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. — Leg cramps weren't going to keep Juwan Staten from getting West Virginia to 20 wins for the first time in four seasons.

Staten scored 20 points, including a layup with 4 seconds left to lift No. 23 West Virginia to a 62-61 victory over No. 8 Kansas on Monday night.

It was a résumé-building victory for the Mountaineers (20-6, 8-5 Big 12), who had lost three of their previous four games and four straight against ranked opponents. They're looking for their first NCAA tournament bid in three seasons.

"This was definitely a must-win game at home," Staten said. "We had the crowd behind us and we fought to the end."

With the game on the line, coach Bob Huggins knew who he wanted to give the ball to: Staten, West Virginia's leading scorer and the Big 12 preseason player of the year.

Staten took an inbound pass and went the length of the court, made a spin move around Frank Mason III and hit a left-handed layup over the outstretched arms of two other Kansas defenders.

It was Staten's first field goal in the final eight minutes after he had gone to the bench with cramps.

"That is exactly how we drew it up," Staten said. "When I spun, I'd seen nothing in the lane. I laid the ball up. It was a good call by coach."

The Jayhawks' Perry Ellis then caught a long pass but missed a layup off the back of the rim with Staten draping him just before the final buzzer.

"I might have rushed it a little bit, but I should have made it," Ellis said. Ellis finished with 19 points, Mason had

18 and Kelly Oubre Jr. added 14 points for first-place Kansas (21-5, 10-3), whose lead was trimmed to 1½ games over No. 14 Iowa State.

Jevon Carter, who also played through leg cramps, added 13 points for West Virginia, including back-to-back three-pointers to put the Mountaineers ahead 60-59 with 2:31 remaining.

Mason made a layup with 2:13 left to give Kansas the lead, but the Jayhawks didn't score again. He missed another layup with nine seconds left and the ball went out of bounds, setting up Staten's heroics.

No. 2 Virginia 61, Pittsburgh 49: Malcolm Brogdon scored 18 points and the host Cavaliers used a late 8-0 scoring run to beat the Panthers.

Virginia (24-1, 12-1 Atlantic Coast Conference) three times held Pittsburg scoreless for more than 5 minutes, and it needed all three to overcome its own problems putting points on the board.

No. 6 Villanova 80, Seton Hall 54: Darin Hilliard scored 18 points, Daniel Ochefu had 11 points and 12 rebounds, and the host Wildcats (34-2, 11-2 Big East) cruised to their seventh straight victory.

Isaiah Whitehead scored led the way with 15 points for Seton Hall (15-11, 5-9).

No. 19 Butler 58, Creighton 56: At Omaha, Neb., Roosevelt Jones made the winning layup with 1.9 seconds to keep the Bulldogs from getting upset by the Big East's last-place team.

Butler (19-7, 9-4 Big East) wouldn't have been in position for Jones' game-winner if Alex Barlow hadn't scrambled to rebound Kellen Dunham's missed shot a few seconds earlier. Devin Brooks missed Creighton's last-second three-pointer.

Dunham scored 19 points and Jones added 18 for the Bulldogs.

Wichita St. relying on defense to pile up wins

By DAVE SKRETTA
The Associated Press

WICHITA, Kan. — The last time Wichita State allowed more than 70 points in regulation, the opponent hailed from the Bluegrass State, was stocked with NBA talent and was headed to the national title game.

It was during last year's NCAA tournament. The team was Kentucky.

In the 25 games since then, the No. 15 Shockers have battered their opponents into submission with a frenzied half-court defense that embodies their fiery coach, Gregg Marshall. The only team to crack that 70-point barrier was Hawaii in an overtime game that the Shockers still won.

"Their pressure," Indiana State coach Greg Lansing said, "that stuff? If they get you on your heels, they're like sharks out there with blood in the water. They just amp things up."

The Shockers defend so tightly on the perimeter that they could probably share their opponent's shorts. They collapse so hard around the basket that the paint looks like a mosh pit. They jump passing lanes. They harass inbound plays. They cause ample indignation.

"You can't breathe. You just can't get a breath," Lansing said. "A lot of times you go against a pressing team, you break it, you exhale. This team is different, and we're not quite ready for the stuff they give — their veterans, their athleticism, the way they play."

Turns out that very few teams are ready for it.

The Shockers held Bradley to 43 points last month. They held Evansville to 41 a

week later, and Drake to 40 a week after that.

But none of those defensive performances was nearly as complete as the job Wichita State did against a depleted Missouri State team last weekend.

The Shockers rolled to a 78-35 victory, the fewest points allowed by a Missouri Valley team in

20 years, and the fewest by Wichita State since a 53-34 win over Colorado State in 1980.

Their subpar effort on Wednesday night — Indiana State scored 57 points — rattled up their season average to 55.8 points per game. That still leaves the Shockers eighth nationally, and five of the teams better than them are ranked or receiving votes in the latest Top 25. Among them: No. 1 Kentucky, No. 2 Virginia and No. 13 Northern Iowa, a fellow Valley foe.

"We just always focus on defense," said Shockers guard Tekele Cotton, the reigning league defensive player of the year.

"We really want to pressure and make it hard to get the ball across half court, but at the same time, be ready for whatever they have in the half court."

The last time the Shockers were better defensively, at least in the black-and-white world of statistics, was the 1947-48 season, when they allowed 51.3 points per game. But that was also the era before shot clocks and three-pointers, when short-shorts and Chuck Taylors were in vogue.



CARLOS T. MIRANDA, THE PANTAGRAPH/AP

Illinois State's DeVaughn Akoon-Purcell goes up for a shot against Wichita State's Darius Carter during Saturday's game at Redbird Arena in Normal, Ill. The 15th-ranked Shockers haven't been productive on offense, but they have held all but one team to less than 70 points this season.

Maybe it's not so surprising given the guys getting the job done.

Point guard Fred VanVleet is a preseason All-American who has more steals than turnovers. Ron Baker is on the mid-season watch list for the Naismith Award. Darius Carter is a bruising patrolman in the paint. And Cotton may be one of the best defensive players in the nation.

The result is more stunning stats like this one: Only four opponents have had more assists than turnovers against Wichita State, and collectively, foes began the week with an assist-to-turnover ratio that is fourth-worst nationally.

When asked how his players buy into the defense-first concept, something that has become harder to do in the score-first world of AAU basketball, Marshall offers a simple explanation.

"If they want to play," the coach said, "they defend and try to rebound."

Yes, in the team-first world of Gregg Marshall, defense is paramount.

"Some of them just like to watch," he added, "but most of them like to play."

The Shockers (22-3, 12-1), who are tied with Northern Iowa atop the Valley, have a tough finishing stretch with all but one of their remaining games against the top half of the league.

If both win out, though, then two of the nation's top defensive teams will set themselves up for a winner-take-all game in the Valley on Feb. 28 at Wichita State.

Then, may the best (defensive) team win.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL/SPORTS BRIEFS/HIGH SCHOOL



MATT SLOCUM/AP

Villanova players, from left, Phil Booth, Darryl Reynolds, Josh Hart and Ryan Arcidiacono acknowledge the crowd after beating Seton Hall 80-54 on Monday. The Wildcats are ranked No. 6.

Second: Blue Devils have wins at Virginia, Wisconsin

FROM BACK PAGE

But Gonzaga remains an annualized, averaging 18.2 points and 9.3 rebounds while shooting 67 percent. He's also a solid passer against steady double teams to create openings for Quinn Cook, Tyus Jones and Justise Winslow. Wins at both Virginia and Wisconsin say plenty about this team's upside.

No. 4 Duke

Freshman big man Jahliel Okafor has been as good as advertised, averaging 18.2 points and 9.3 rebounds while shooting 67 percent. He's also a solid passer against steady double teams to create openings for Quinn Cook, Tyus Jones and Justise Winslow. Wins at both Virginia and Wisconsin say plenty about this team's upside.

There's not one key when you're playing Duke," North Carolina coach Roy Williams said. "You've got to play a total game."

But the Blue Devils (22-3) struggled defensively in losses to North Carolina State and Miami, particularly against dribble penetration. Kicking Rasheed Sulaimon off the team this month didn't help on that front, either, leaving the Blue Devils vulnerable to foul trouble with only eight scholarship players — though all were McDonald's All-Americans in high school.

No. 5 Wisconsin

Preseason All-American 7-footer Frank Kaminsky can score

(17.3), rebound (8.3) and shoot from outside, while Sam Dekker and Nigel Hayes are strong front-court sidekicks on a veteran team coming off a Final Four run.

Wisconsin (23-2) is also one of the nation's most efficient offensive teams, ranking second on Gonzaga in points per 100 possessions, according to STATS.

The Badgers miss Jackson running the show for them, though sophomore Bronson Koenig has filled in well. And the defense isn't exactly of the lockdown variety.

"I still like to see more production from the eight guys that hit the floor," coach Bo Ryan said. "And that includes the starters, in some ways: rebounding, defense. So I'll always find things."

No. 6 Villanova

When Villanova (24-2) is playing well — as during its first-half domination of Georgetown — the Wildcats are a scary matchup with their ability to spread the floor. They also have tremendous balance with six guys averaging at least 9.2 points led by Darrun Hilliard, who hit a game-winner at Butler on Saturday.

But they rely heavily on the three (eight made per game), so what happens if he isn't falling? And Villanova has had a recent history of late-season fades, last reaching the round of 16 in 2009.

"We've been good enough to win," coach Jay Wright said earlier this month, "but I really think we're a work in progress."

Briefly

Bosch sentenced to 4 years

The Associated Press

MIAMI — The former owner of the South Florida clinic that supplied performance-enhancing substances to Major League Baseball players and other athletes has been sentenced to four years in federal prison.

U.S. District Judge Darrin Gayles imposed the sentence Tuesday on Anthony Bosch, who was seeking a more lenient term because of his cooperation in the investigation. Prosecutors said Bosch could not get his sentence reduced through further cooperation.

Bosch pleaded guilty in October to conspiracy to distribute testosterone to athletes from the now-closed Biogenesis of America clinic in Coral Gables. One customer was New York Yankees star Alex Rodriguez.

Bosch and Rodriguez are expected to testify if Rodriguez cousin Yuri Scurat and ex-University of Miami pitching coach Lazaro Collazo go to trial as scheduled in April.

Giambi announces retirement from MLB

CLEVELAND — Jason Giambi is retiring after 20 seasons in the majors.

The 2000 AL MVP announced his decision Monday in a statement that was first sent to the New York Daily News. He ends his career as one of 20 players in history with at least 400 home runs, 1,400 RBIs, 1,200 runs and 1,300 walks. The 44-year-old played for Oakland, the New York Yankees, Colorado and Cleveland.

Following last season, Giambi said he would discuss with his family whether to keep playing. The longtime slugger appeared in just 26 games for the Indians in 2014.

A five-time All-Star and fearless power hitter, Giambi batted .277 in his career with 440 home runs and 1,441 RBIs. He had a .399 on-base percentage and slugged .516.

The first baseman was also tarnished by his involvement in the BALCO performance-enhancing drugs investigation. He never publicly admitted using PEDs, but has apologized for past



ALAN DIAZ/AP

Anthony Bosch, the former owner of the South Florida clinic that supplied performance-enhancing substances to Major League Baseball players and other athletes talks to reporters before his sentencing Tuesday.

In other MLB news:

■ Left-hander Barry Zito is returning to the Oakland Athletics with a minor contract that includes an invitation to major league spring training, two people with knowledge of the agreement said Tuesday.

"I want to thank the fans for being a part of this incredible journey," Giambi said in his statement. "I especially want to thank the fans that gave me a second chance to let me show you the human being you see today."

Hernandez defense questions investigators

FALL RIVER, Mass. — Lawyers for former New England Patriots player Aaron Hernandez are going after officers in the murder investigation, focusing on what they say is sloppy police work.

Hernandez is accused in the 2013 killing of Odin Lloyd, who was dating his fiancée's sister.

During Tuesday's testimony, Hernandez lawyer James Sultana asked North Attleborough Officer John Grim why he saw a foot print at the scene but did not tell a detective taking photos about it. Grim said he did not have an answer for that.

A different detective, Michael Elliott, testified that the day after the killing, he used a surveillance camera to watch Hernandez outside the police station. He said Hernandez took apart his cell-

phone while sitting in a car. Prosecutors plan to show the video to the jury.

Reports: Love back as Ryder Cup captain

LOS ANGELES — Davis Love III is getting another chance as captain of the U.S. Ryder Cup team.

Two people familiar with the decision told The Associated Press on Monday night that the PGA of America has selected Love as captain for the 2016 matches at Hazletine. They spoke on condition of anonymity because it has not been announced.

Love led the Americans to a 10-6 lead at Medinah in 2012 until Ian Poulter and Europe staged an improbable rally and matched the greatest comeback in Ryder Cup history.

Source: Stoudemire joining Mavericks

DALLAS — Amare Stoudemire asked out of his contract with the New York Knicks because he wants to make a title run.

The veteran forward has apparently decided Dallas is the place to spend the rest of this season chasing his first title.

A person with direct knowledge of the talks said Monday night that Stoudemire has agreed to sign with the Mavericks after taking a buyout from the Knicks. He can't make his verbal commitment official until he clears waivers Wednesday.

The person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal wasn't official, told The Associated Press that Stoudemire could be available when Dallas returns from the All-Star break Thursday at Oklahoma City.

The 32-year-old Stoudemire was waived Monday after requesting the Knicks buy out the remainder of his contract that was set to expire after this season.

Stoudemire averaged 17.3 points and 6.7 rebounds in 255 games over five seasons with the Knicks, making the playoffs three times. He was a starter in the 2011 All-Star Game, the Knicks' first in 14 years.

Far East basketball scoreboard

D-I boys
Tuesday at Camp Foster, Okinawa
(Round-robin, 4th quarter)
 Kubasaki 22, St. Mary's 15
 American School in Japan 31, Kinnick 21
 7. Kadena 23, Christian Academy Japan 27
 Seoul American 36, ASU 28
 Kubasaki 47, CAJ 17
 Kadena 49, Kinnick 20
 ASU 28, CAJ 23
 Kadena 48, St. Mary's 25
 ASU 49, Kinnick 27
 Kadena 51, Kinnick 48
 ASU 67, CAJ 24
 St. Mary's 33, Seoul American 29
Wednesday's games
(Single-elimination playoffs)
 Kinnick vs. Christian Academy Japan, 8 a.m.

Semifinals
 Kubasaki vs. St. Mary's, 9:30 a.m.
 Kadena vs. ASU, 11 a.m.
Third
 Semifinal losers, 2 p.m.
Championship
 Semifinal winners, 5 p.m.
D-I girls
Tuesday at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan
(Round-robin)
 ASU 47, Kubasaki 28
 Kadena 53, Seoul American 24
 ASU 49, Kinnick 27
 Kubasaki 36, Seoul American 35
(Single-elimination playoffs)
 Kubasaki 47, Seoul American 31
Wednesday's games
(Single-elimination playoffs)
 Semifinals
 ASU vs. Kinnick, 9 a.m.
 Kadena vs. Kubasaki, 11 a.m.

Third
 Semifinal losers, 4 p.m.
Championship
 Semifinal winners, 6 p.m.
D-I boys
Tuesday at Marine Corps Station Iwakuni, Japan
(Double-elimination playoffs)
 E.I. King 49, Zion Christian 31
 M.C. Perry 55, Daegu 22
 Edgren 70, Okinawa Christian 66
 Humphreys 54, King 47
 Tokinawa Christian 58, Zion Christian 35
 Osan 73, Edgren 67
 Perry 71, Yokota 62
 Edgren 59, Okinawa Christian 45
 Daegu 46, Humphreys 38
Wednesday's games
(Double-elimination playoffs)
 Yokota vs. Daegu, 9 a.m.
 Perry vs. Osan, 11 a.m.

Edgren vs. Yokota-Daegu winner, 1 p.m.
 Perry-Osan loser vs. Edgren/Yokota-Daegu winner, 3 p.m.
Championship
 Osan-Perry winner vs. TBD, 5 p.m.
 If unbeaten team loses first championship game, 7 p.m.
D-I girls
Tuesday at Camp Zama, Japan
Pool A
 Zama 24, King 21 OT
 Zama 23, Osan 12
 Zama 27, Okinawa Christian 16
Pool B
 Sacred Heart 28, Daegu 24
 Humphreys 24, Perry 15
 Edgren 50, Sacred Heart 18
(Double-elimination playoffs)
 Perry 34, King 21 OT
 Okinawa Christian 33, Daegu 28
 Osan 42, Sacred Heart 39

Yokota 42, Humphreys 18
 Zama 40, Perry 23
 Edgren 50, Okinawa Christian 12
Wednesday's games
(Double-elimination playoffs)
 Sacred Heart vs. Perry, 9 a.m.
 Humphreys vs. Okinawa Christian, 9 a.m.
Ninth place King vs. Daegu, noon
 seventh place Sacred Heart-Perry loser vs. Humphreys-Okinawa Christian loser, 1:30 p.m.
Fifth place Sacred Heart-Perry winner vs. Humphreys-Okinawa Christian winner, 3:30 p.m.
Semifinals
 Osan vs. Zama, 10:30 a.m.
 Yokota vs. Edgren, 10:30 a.m.
Third
 Semifinal losers, 3 p.m.
Championship
 Semifinal winners, 4:30 p.m.

AUTO RACING/NBA



PHILAN M. EBBENHACK/AP

Brad Keselowski slides along the front stretch after crashing Saturday during a NASCAR Sprint Unlimited race at Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Bad reputation Keselowski glad to wear black hat

By DAN GELSTON
The Associated Press

BDAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Brad Keselowski might as well sign up as the next celebrity target at a comedy roast.

His fellow NASCAR drivers already have plenty of practice hurling cutting barbs his way — just minus the rim shot.

Denny Hamlin on Keselowski's rep: "Nobody wants to be Brad."

Kyle Busch on who young drivers should emulate: "Don't come in like Brad."

For each blunt opinion Keselowski has about the state of NASCAR, drivers seem to have two or three zingers ready to fire right back at Bad Brad. Not even winning the 2012 Sprint Cup championship earned Keselowski his proper place at the big boys' table. He's yet to earn as much respect in the garage as former champs Tony Stewart, Matt Kenseth, Jimmie Johnson and Jeff Gordon.

Heck, Keselowski even took the rap for costing Gordon a shot at a fifth title when they tangled in an accident on a late restart at Texas.

Keselowski has accepted the black hat, better to stir reaction with an outspoken opinion or two than build a career as an irrelevant driver.

If he's failed to gain many best friends in the sport, it's a small price to pay for having the type of passion that energizes him to be among NASCAR's best drivers.



TERRY RENA/AP

Brad Keselowski adjusts his helmet before a practice session for the Daytona 500.

"I know that when I have had whatever run-ins I have had throughout my career, I have had them because I have done the things that I feel like I need to do to be the best, and that is why I am in this sport," Keselowski said. "That is what drives me."

Among his most outspoken moments:

■ A rant against NASCAR's move to electronic fuel injection, which led to a \$25,000 fine.

■ A diatribe about other teams poaching team owner Roger Penske employees. Penske later said "Brad had some misinformation" after rival team owner Rick Hendrick blasted the driver's claims.

■ A strong stance against

NASCAR's requirement that all drivers undergo baseline concussion testing.

"Some of the stuff he says, all of us shrug our shoulders, close our eyes and are like, 'I wouldn't have said that,'" 2010 Daytona 500 winner Jamie McMurray said. "But there is normally a little bit of truth in it, as well. He obviously likes attention or he wouldn't say things like that."

Even Keselowski's detractors can't deny his talent. He's coming off a career-best six wins with 17 top-fives driving the No. 2 Ford for Team Penske.

"I feel like I am a top-three driver in the Sprint Cup series," Keselowski said.

He mentioned reigning series champion Kevin Harvick and Carl Edwards as the other two drivers in the gold-silver-bronze class.

"When you are the champion like he was and win races like he does, you have a voice," two-time Daytona 500 winner Michael Waltrip said. "Your voice gets listened to and played a lot, and that makes you think you're even more important."

The 31-year-old Keselowski has a date with fatherhood, though he doesn't expect the arrival of a baby girl sometime around the All-Star race to dim his competitive fire — or muzzle his mouth.

Love him or boo him, Kesz won't change his ways.

"I feel like the sport is coming to me," he said.

At break, Blazers same as last year

By ANNE M. PETERSON
The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — The Trail Blazers are 36-17, the same record they had at last year's All-Star break. But the feeling this time is more of relief than congratulation.

After a fast start, with just four losses in the first 21 games, Portland was hit by injuries. Its starters have missed a combined 35 games.

Still, the Blazers lead the Northwest Division and are tied for third in the Western Conference.

"I like what we've done. We've had more adversity this year than last year and we've done a good job of fighting through it," coach Terry Stotts said. "We still have a lot of games to go and by no means is it over, but at this point last year we stayed healthy and were the surprise team. This has a different feel to it."

Last season, the Blazers had the same starting lineup in every game going into the All-Star break. Portland went on to win 54 games and advanced to the Western Conference semifinals for the first time since 2000. This season they've played 13 different starting lineups.

Center Robin Lopez was out for 23 games after he fractured his right hand Dec. 15 against San Antonio. The 7-footer's absence was felt; the Blazers went 13-10 without him.

But more than his rebounding and defense, Lopez is a steady force. LaMarcus Aldridge is more creative on the floor when Lopez takes the pressure off him. Aldridge, who started in Sunday's All-Star game, is averaging 23.6 points and 10.3 rebounds. He has 27 double-doubles this season, ninth in the league.

There was injury drama surrounding Aldridge, too. In a span of just 48 hours late in January, Aldridge resigned himself to thumb surgery that would sideline him for up to six weeks. Then he reversed himself and decided

to play through the pain.

Aldridge hurt his thumb when his hand came down on the knee of Sacramento's DeMarcus Cousins in the second quarter of a victory over the Kings on Jan. 19. Aldridge said the injury to his non-shooting hand still causes him discomfort.

"It feels OK," Aldridge said last week before heading off to his fourth All-Star appearance. "I've had it hit a few times and it hasn't been too bad."

The front court has struggled because of Nicolas Batum's sore right wrist, which has caused him to miss six games. Backup center Joel Freeland has missed 20 games and counting with a right shoulder sprain.

Portland's stability has been its backcourt. Although Damian Lillard has struggled at times with uncharacteristic inconsistency, especially from three-point range, he's averaging 21.5 points and 6.3 assists.

Wesley Matthews has 161 three-pointers this season, tying him with Golden State's Steph Curry and Atlanta's Kyle Korver for the most in the league. Matthews is riding a career-best streak of 13 games with multiple three-pointers.

Matthews said Portland's ability to overcome injuries is a "testament to us getting better."

"We're just going to continue to get healthier — hopefully. We already hit the injury bug. It's over, so out of sight, out of mind," he said. "But our bench has developed and guys have played minutes that maybe they wouldn't have if guys were healthy. That just strengthens our team."

Meanwhile, talk persists that the Blazers will make a move before Thursday's trade deadline. Wilson Chandler and Arron Afflalo are some of the names connected to Portland. The Blazers don't return to the court until Friday at Utah.

"It's nice to have this break just to relax, take care of our bodies and to do something else," Batum said. "And come back stronger."



GREG WAHL-STEPHENS/AP

Portland's Nicolas Batum, left, has missed six games during the first half of the season due to a sore right wrist.

NBA

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	35	17	.679	—
Brooklyn	21	31	.404	14½
Boston	20	31	.392	15
Philadelphia	12	41	.226	24
New York	10	43	.189	26

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	43	11	.796	—
Washington	33	21	.611	10
Charlotte	22	30	.423	20
Miami	12	39	.230	30
Orlando	17	39	.304	27

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	34	20	.630	—
Cleveland	33	22	.600	1½
Milwaukee	30	23	.566	3½
Detroit	21	33	.389	13
Indiana	21	33	.389	13

Western Conference

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	39	14	.736	—
Houston	36	17	.679	—
Dallas	36	19	.655	4
San Antonio	24	19	.562	5
New Orleans	27	26	.509	12

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	35	17	.679	—
Oklahoma City	28	25	.528	8
Denver	20	33	.377	16
Utah	19	34	.358	17
Minnesota	17	42	.208	25

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	42	9	.824	—
L.A. Clippers	35	19	.648	8½
Los Angeles	29	25	.537	14½
Sacramento	18	34	.346	24½
L.A. Lakers	13	40	.245	30

Monday's games

No games scheduled

Tuesday's games

No games scheduled

Wednesday's games

No games scheduled

Thursday's games

Dallas at Oklahoma City

San Antonio at L.A. Clippers

Friday's games

New Orleans at Orlando

Indiana at Philadelphia

Toronto at Atlanta

Chicago at Detroit

Miami at New York

Phoenix at Minnesota

Cleveland at Washington

Houston at Dallas

Denver at Milwaukee

Portland at Utah

Boston at Sacramento

San Antonio at Golden State

Brooklyn at L.A. Lakers



SUE OEROCKI/AP

Thunder forward Kevin Durant has played in just 26 of 53 games. The reigning league MVP has been dominant when he plays, averaging 25.9 points, 6.6 rebounds and 4.0 assists while playing just 33.7 minutes.

Brooks has healthy Thunder back in mix

With Durant, Westbrook returning from injuries, Oklahoma City expects to contend

By CLIFF BRUNT
The Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Scott Brooks has heard noise from the doubters before.

In 1987, there were questions about whether the 5-foot-11 sharpshooter from Cal-Irvine could make it in the NBA. Turns out, after a few detours, the undrafted guard had a long NBA career and won a title with the Houston Rockets.

Now, as coach of the Oklahoma City Thunder, the doubters are out in force again.

Some say that despite injuries that have kept reigning MVP Kevin Durant and All-Star MVP Russell Westbrook out for significant stretches, Brooks' team should be higher than ninth in the Western Conference. Some question whether he's the man to coach a team that hasn't won an NBA title despite three trips to the Western Conference finals in the past four years.

"I understand a lot of people out there are criticizing," he said right before the All-Star break. "It's not something I worry about. My mother gave me a lot of great lessons, and one of the biggest lessons — don't listen to 'They.' 'They' never should impact how you think, how you prepare, and what are the things that you want to accomplish. 'They' said I couldn't play in the NBA, and I played over a decade."

With his team taking an us-against-the-world approach, Brooks has led Oklahoma City back from a 3-12 start. The Thunder won five of six before the break to pull



SUE OEROCKI/AP

Thunder guard Russell Westbrook broke a bone in his left hand early in the season and was out for a month. Oklahoma City is 28-25, but 17-9 with Durant and Westbrook in the lineup.

within a half game of the eighth spot.

Durant, outspoken in defending Brooks during All-Star Weekend, said the only thing that has changed is injuries. The team is 28-25, but 17-9 with Durant and

Westbrook in the lineup.

"Last year, we struggled, too," Durant said. "We had times when we struggled, ups and downs."

"When they're healthy and fully loaded, and San Antonio is healthy and fully loaded, those are the best two teams in the NBA."

Dave Joerges
Grizzlies coach

Joerges said the Thunder look as dangerous as ever.

"When they're healthy and fully loaded, and San Antonio is healthy and fully loaded, those are the best two teams in the NBA," he said. "Some of the rest of us have good records and we're looking forward to seeing what we can all do in the playoffs this year. But those two teams will always be the favorites going into the playoffs as long as they're healthy and ready to go."

Durant had missed just 16 games in seven years before this season, but he broke a bone in his right foot before this season started and missed the first month. He also has sat out with a sprained right ankle and a sprained left big toe. In all, he

has played in just 26 of 53 games. He has been dominant when he plays, averaging 25.9 points, 6.6 rebounds and 4.0 assists while playing just 33.7 minutes.

Brooks said uncertainty about Durant's health has made the season "challenging." He said there is an adjustment period whenever Durant gets hurt, and just as much of an adjustment when he returns.

"The thing I love about our team — there's no excuses," he said. "This is the season that we are dealing with. It's not over. There's plenty of games left. We don't know how it's going to end, but I do know — I'm positive about this — that our group is going to continue to play hard and for each other."

Westbrook broke a bone in his left hand two games into the season and was out for a month. He is ranked third in the league in scoring (25.8 points), sixth in assists (7.6) and second in steals (2.16).

"We want to look at the things we've done well the last week or so and just try to recreate that and kind of take control of our season ourselves," forward Nick Collison said. "It helps to get guys back healthy. Obviously, hopefully, we keep that going. But the big thing for us is every single night, we've got to realize that we control how we play, and we are in control of our season."

Durant said the team is trying to focus on the small things.

"We can't look at the standings," he said. "They'll be out there every game. We've just got to play and play good basketball, and that will take care of itself."

SPORTS



Brooks has OKC in playoff mix
after All-Star break

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COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Second fiddle

Unbeaten Kentucky leaves little doubt who is best, but several contending for No. 2

By Aaron Beard
The Associated Press

There's no argument about who is No. 1. The second-best team in the nation behind Kentucky, however, is up for debate.

This week, Virginia is the No. 2 in the Top 25. But Gonzaga keeps winning out West. Duke is led by a freshman who is probably the nation's best big man. Wisconsin has experienced talent. And Villanova, coming in at No. 6 this week, can be a tough matchup with its ability to shoot the three-pointer.

It would have been an easier choice before Virginia lost guard Justin Anderson to a finger injury. As long as he's out, the Cavaliers are in flux.

And that opens the door for Wisconsin. The Badgers aren't the most explosive team, but they can go on efficient runs that turn close games into blowouts. Beyond the obvious stats, they protect the ball (No. 21 nationally in turnover margin), rebound (No. 21 in rebounding margin) and avoid mistakes (third in assist-to-turnover margin).

If senior floor leader Traevon Jackson, who is out as he recovers from a January foot injury, can get all the way back, the tournament-tested Badgers have the look of a team to trust.

Here's a closer look at the candidates in the race for No. 2 behind the undefeated Wildcats:

No. 2 Virginia

The Cavaliers (24-1) are miserable to play against. They control tempo and play defense that makes opponents work for everything. The reigning Atlantic Coast Conference champions also have experience and complete trust in coach Tony Bennett's formula.

But losing Anderson for several weeks makes things tougher. He's a physical guard averaging about 13 points and shooting an ACC-best 48 percent from three-point range, and the Cavs won their first two games without him by a combined five points before Monday's 61-49 win against Pittsburgh.

"They miss [Anderson], but they've still got a really, really good team that understands

Tony's system and they play very well together," said Wake Forest coach Danny Manning, whose team lost 61-60 to the Cavaliers on Saturday.

No. 3 Gonzaga

Gonzaga's offense is humming. The Zags (26-1) entered the week shooting a national-best 52.7 percent and leading the country in points per 100 possessions (127.7) in a show of efficiency, according to STATS. Kentucky transfer Kyle Wiltjer gives the Zags an inside-outside scorer alongside a strong backcourt. And their only loss came at now-No. 7 Arizona in overtime.

"We're as balanced as probably we've ever been up here," said coach Mark Few after last week's win against Loyola Marymount.

SEE SECOND
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Duke's Jahmil Okafor

ETHAN HYMAN,
RALEIGH NEWS & OBSERVER/TNS



Virginia's
London
Perrantes

RYAN M. KELLY/AP

Ex-owner of steroid clinic in MLB scandal
sentenced to 4 years in prison » Page 29

Late layup helps West Virginia surprise
No. 8 Kansas » Page 28



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